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WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



BROS will be BROS

Tatum, Hill rekindle
their romance in
'22 Jump Street'
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TRAVEL



Making modern
pilgrimage to
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should know
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WORLD CUP



US defense rises to
occasion, but can
they keep it up?

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CRISIS IN IRAQ



Militants from the
Islamic State of Iraq
and the Levant stand
with a captured Iraqi
army Humvee outside
an oil refinery in Beiji,
Iraq, on Thursday.

AP

US sending 300 military advisers

Obama vows no combat troops, urges 'inclusive agenda' | Page 10

ONLINE: stripes.
com/go/iraq



Latest developments

- Obama to send up to 300 to Iraq to help train and advise.
- ISIL militants hang banners at Beiji oil refinery; Baghdad claims it still controls facility.

- Obama administration signals al-Maliki should go, convinced the Shiite leader is unable to govern.
- Petraeus: "This cannot be the United States being the air force of Shia militias or a Shia on Sunni Arab fight."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we Europeans want the United States to remain committed to European security, we must show a commitment to pick up our part of the bill."

— Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO secretary general

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2. Former Marine in Texas says VA has classified him as dead
3. DOD identifies 17 recovered from 1952 plane crash in Alaska
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5. Report: Savings from 2013 furloughs might not be accurate

COMING SOON



Wired World
More smart, less phone

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MIDEAST

Iraq woes stir fears over Afghanistan

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deteriorating situation in Iraq is giving Congress pause about President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, with fears that hard-fought gains could be wiped out by a resurgent Taliban.

Senior Obama administration officials insist Afghanistan is not Iraq, with a population far more receptive to a continued U.S. presence and the promise of a new unity government. But the officials could offer no assurance that Afghanistan won't devolve into chaos after Americans leave, as Iraq has.

"There's no guarantee," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told a Senate panel Wednesday. "It is up to the people of Afghanistan to make these decisions, their military, their new leadership that will be coming in as a result of their new government."

The U.S. military mission in Iraq ended in December 2011 after eight years of war that cost hundreds of billions of dollars and more than 4,400 U.S. lives, a conclusion welcomed by a war-weary nation. The Obama administration had proposed keeping a residual U.S. force in Iraq to continue training Iraqis, but Baghdad rejected Washington's demand that its troops be granted immunity for prosecution while in the country.

In the absence of the Americans, the fast-moving Sunni insurgency of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has prevailed over Iraqi security forces, conquering several cities, and is threatening the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described for Congress on Wednesday how some Iraqi security forces abandoned the fight against the ISIL.

"Two divisions and part of two, and one national police organization did in fact throw down their arms and in some cases collude with [the ISIL] and in some cases simply desert in northern Iraq," Dempsey said.

Lawmakers fear a replay in Afghanistan after 2016 when U.S.



RAHMAH GUL/AP

Firefighters work Thursday near the scene of an attack in Torkham, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan.

forces leave. Last month, Obama announced that about 10,000 troops would stay in Afghanistan at the end of this year but be fully withdrawn by the end of 2016.

In a private White House meeting Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pressed Obama about his definitive timetable for drawing down American troops, especially in light of the crisis in Iraq. The president defended his plan as the right approach, according to a congressional aide familiar with the talks who wouldn't discuss it publicly by name because the meeting was private.

On Thursday, McConnell publicly criticized Obama, arguing that the president has decided to withdraw forces without considering the ramifications.

"He seems determined to pull out completely, whether or not the Taliban is in a position to reestablish itself, whether or not al-Qaida senior leadership finds a more permissive environment in the tribal areas of Pakistan, and whether or not al-Qaida has been driven from Afghanistan completely — one of our primary aims in this conflict from the beginning," McConnell said in a

speech on the Senate floor.

At two separate hearings on Capitol Hill, Republicans and Democrats pressed administration officials about whether history would repeat itself and whether Afghan forces could defend the country after the U.S. leaves.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., asked whether the time line "emboldens militants in the country to wait (us) out."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., predicted a reconstituted Taliban will threaten Afghanistan as the ISIL has done in Iraq. "We've seen this movie in Iraq," McCain said.

James Dobbins, the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, countered that in Iraq, "people didn't want us and not a single Iraqi politician was prepared to advocate our staying. In Afghanistan, the people overwhelmingly want us to stay, and every single contender in the presidential election said they would sign the (bilateral security agreement)."

Western powers are counting on a peaceful transition in Kabul, but last weekend's runoff vote has prompted allegations of

election fraud. Candidates Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani hope to succeed President Hamid Karzai, who was prevented from seeking a third term.

At the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee hearing, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., wondered what the U.S. had learned from Iraq that could be applied to Afghanistan and whether its forces could defend themselves.

Dempsey said he was concerned about Afghanistan's future and said the U.S. military would continue to work on building a resilient Afghan force.

"But at the end of the day, a security force is only as good as the instrument that wields it, and that's the central government," the general said.

He added that Afghans are "more tenacious fighters than their Iraqi counterparts."

The Afghanistan war has lasted more than a decade, cost billions of dollars and killed more than 2,100 members of the U.S. military. Obama has public sentiment on his side in taking steps to end the conflict, while a number of lawmakers are resistant to keeping U.S. troops in the country beyond 2016.

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MIDEAST



PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

U.S. soldiers investigate the scene of a suicide attack in Torkham, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Afghan officials say three Taliban suicide bombers targeted NATO fuel trucks at the border with Pakistan, setting off a gunbattle with police guards.

Taliban strike NATO supply trucks in east Afghanistan

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Three suicide bombers touched off a battle on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border Thursday that destroyed dozens of trucks carrying NATO military gear out of the country, Afghan officials said.

Insurgents attacked a parking lot at a busy border crossing in Nangarhar province just before 5 a.m., placing magnetic bombs on trucks carrying military vehicles out of the country, according to Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, spokesman for the Nangarhar provincial government. The attack sparked an hours-long gunbattle, leaving all three attackers dead and three truck drivers injured.

The trucks were attacked near the Torkham border crossing in eastern Afghanistan, a major transit point for military gear headed out of the country to the Port of Karachi in Pakistan. The attack comes one day after a fuel tanker was blown up on a road in eastern Afghanistan, leaving two civilians dead and six more injured.

The Taliban, who often exag-



An Afghan policeman stands guard near the scene of the attack.

gerate the effect of their operations, claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack, saying they destroyed nearly 50 trucks and more than 90 military vehicles.

Afghan trucking officials have complained that the roads have gotten more dangerous for their drivers in the past year, as the NATO-led International Security

Assistance Force pulls troops and materiel from the country ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline for all foreign combat troops to leave Afghanistan.

The attack comes at a time of uncertainty for Afghanistan.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

Bergdahl made false claims about atrocities, former colleague says

By THOMAS GIBBONS NEFF
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An Army veteran who served alongside Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in Afghanistan said Wednesday that the long-captive soldier was deeply frustrated with the mission and had lodged false allegations that their unit had carried out atrocities.

Bergdahl "didn't understand why we were doing more humanitarian aid drops, setting up clinics and helping the populace instead of hunting the Taliban," former Spec. Cody Full told lawmakers during a hearing on the exchange of Bergdahl for five Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "He wanted to hunt and kill."

The House Foreign Affairs committee held a hearing on Wednesday on the exchange of Bergdahl for five Taliban prisoners and its implications on U.S. national security.

The Taliban released Bergdahl in advance on May 31 after he had spent nearly five years in captivity. Bergdahl, the last American servicemember to be held captive in Afghanistan, went missing from his remote outpost in June 2009 and was seized shortly thereafter.

In exchange for his release, the Taliban officials were transferred to Qatar, where they will be held for a year before being sent back to Afghanistan.

Both the terms of the prisoner swap and the Obama administration's failure to notify Congress in advance have been the subject of persistent criticism. Bergdahl has also been criticized by some former members of his unit who believe he sought to desert the Army.

Full, who was honorably discharged and served with Bergdahl in the same fire team, the military's smallest type of organized unit, rallied against Bergdahl's attitude during his deployment in 2009 and rejected media reports that he was a sensitive young man trying to define himself during a time of war. His handwritten journal, along with essays, stories and emails provided to The Washington Post, painted him as a soldier full of worry

about his own mental health and the situation in Afghanistan.

"Bergdahl was complaining to his parents that our platoon was committing atrocities instead of helping the local populace," Full told members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "But he was telling our platoon that we needed to stop trying to win hearts and minds and focus more on killing the Taliban."

Full also dismissed suggestions that Bergdahl's platoon had discriminated against the Taliban.

It's a ridiculous charge," Full said. "Security was always in place. These acts of common sense survival did not jeopardize the security or put anyone in danger."

Bergdahl, who is not believed to have spoken to his parents since his release, is currently recovering in San Antonio, Texas, after a brief stay at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. He is set to be released in the coming weeks following the completion of reintegration treatment.

The Army has opened an investigation into the circumstances of Bergdahl's disappearance and capture. While the investigation, led by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, has started, there is no concrete timeline for its completion and Bergdahl is not expected to speak with investigators until after he finishes his recovery.

Former Spec. Cody Full served with Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

Pakistan: Military offensive forces 80,000 to flee region

The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Nearly 80,000 people have fled a tribal region in northwest Pakistan over the last two days, an official said, as the military continues its offensive in the rugged area near the Afghan border.

The military launched the operation in North Waziristan Sunday night, saying it was going after militants who have long used the region as a base from which to launch terrorist attacks.

A curfew already in place Saturday pre-

vented residents from leaving until it was lifted Wednesday morning. The offensive has so far consisted of airstrikes, but the lifting of the curfew to allow residents to flee could signal a wider ground offensive to come.

Arshad Khan, the head of the region's disaster management authority, said 79,000 people left North Waziristan Wednesday and Thursday. Even before the operation was announced about 63,000 people had left because of previous airstrikes and fears of a larger offensive.

Residents have been streaming out of the

region in trucks, cars and tractors loaded down with possessions such as mattresses, fans and television sets. Some have even brought their livestock.

Almost all have opted to stay with family or in rented houses instead of at a camp established for them.

Pakistan has long been criticized for failing to target militants in the North Waziristan region. The U.S. says that militants such as the Haqqani network use the region as a base from which to attack Afghan and NATO troops in neighboring Afghanistan.



B.K. BANASIA/AP

Pakistani tribal families arrive in Bannu, Pakistan, on Wednesday after fleeing their homes in the northwest region.

MILITARY

US-Vietnam ties warming with China rift

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The United States flag once flew over 25,000 acres of airfield and port facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, one of the military's largest bases at the height of the Vietnam War.

Although it is doubtful that the valuable South China Sea port would be shared by U.S. forces, a hearty welcome from Vietnam to visiting U.S. warships and aircraft is growing increasingly likely.

When China moved a \$1 billion oil rig in May into waters claimed by Vietnam, the ensuing sea standoff accelerated a warming U.S.-Vietnam military relationship like few other events could have, defense analysts and diplomats told Stars and Stripes following a regional security summit this month.

China's claim to about 90 percent of the South China Sea, largely based on what it calls historical discoveries, threatens Vietnamese claims to resource-rich waters and islands near their continental shelf. While the U.S. takes no position on territorial sovereignty, Vietnam's interests — along with those of several other nations bordering the South China Sea — align with U.S. principles of freedom of navigation and international law.

The United States also wants to protect what is, according to a 2012 U.S. estimate, \$1.2 trillion in U.S. trade transiting along South China Sea shipping lanes.

"There have been remarkable strides already made in the last few years, and it's been very rapid since 2010 in terms of U.S.-

Vietnam military relationships," said Christian Le Mière, senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Continued assertiveness by China in the South China Sea will only further convince the Vietnamese that they should be expanding their international alliances, and that includes the United States."

The U.S. Navy has been making port visits to Da Nang in recent years, engaging in activities that started with sports and ship tours with Vietnamese sailors, and developed into a joint search-and-rescue exercise last year. Greater U.S. Navy access to Cam Ranh Bay, further south near Nha Trang, would represent a bigger step in the military-to-military relationship.

The deep water port is about 7 miles from open sea and is capable of accommodating aircraft carriers, and its facilities recently underwent millions of dollars in upgrades. Its airport is used by both Vietnamese military forces and by commercial carriers.

U.S. Military Sealift Command ships have visited for repairs — the first came along with former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in 2012 — but no active U.S. Navy ship has visited the port since the Vietnam War.

On May 31, with senior Chinese military officials in attendance at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, Vietnamese Defense Minister Gen. Phùng Quang Thanh touted Cam Ranh Bay to all comers, commercial and military.

"Vietnam sees that it is a waste if [Cam Ranh Bay] is not put into use, so we are considering our own investments, management and construction of the port to

provide services to ships from all countries," Thanh said.

However, analysts agree that Vietnam will take a cautious approach to engagement with the U.S., balancing the relationship with other large powers. Russia remains Vietnam's most important defense supplier. The Russians are building six Kilo-class submarines for the Vietnamese, and they'll have a regular presence at Cam Ranh Bay as well.

Most analysts don't see the Russian presence as a sticking point. But U.S. rotational basing at Cam Ranh Bay, similar to the agreement struck earlier this year granting U.S. access to Philippine-run bases, is out of the question for now.

Instead, the U.S. and Vietnam can send an effective message to China through regular port visits, refueling stops and other measures, said Carlyle Thayer, a professor emeritus at the University of New South Wales in Australia and Southeast Asia analyst who



Jay C. PUGH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A Vietnamese officer watches the rescue-and-salvage ship USNS Sustainment steam into Da Nang, Vietnam, in April in support of a low-level exercise between the U.S. and Vietnam. A standoff at sea between Vietnam and China is accelerating the already warming relationship between the U.S. and Vietnamese militaries, according to security analysts.

was in Hanoi when the China confrontation began.

Vietnam paved the way for such engagement on May 20 in a little-noted but potentially important decision to join the Proliferation Security Initiative, Thayer said.

The PSI was created by the U.S. and Poland in 2003 as an international effort to interdict vessels carrying weapons of mass destruction, and it has since garnered signatories from more than 100 countries.

Vietnam joined with China in strenuously arguing that the PSI violated international law, until Hanoi changed its mind last month.

"It's a bait on the hook to request the United States to assist in standing up their ability to conduct maritime reconnaissance and surveillance and link to shore-based radars and other technical equipment," Thayer said.

The additional U.S. presence could force China to act less ag-

gressively in the area, while at the same time allowing Vietnam to show that it took no provocative action against China.

Although China and Vietnam have each accused each other of ramming ships and stoking tensions, it is clear that Vietnam can't afford to be the aggressor against the much larger Chinese fleet.

Vietnam's functional coast guard is 40-odd vessels and most of them are relatively small, at 400 tons or less. China's coast guard includes dozens of ships more than twice that size, and that's assuming China sticks to a pledge of not using its navy — though Vietnam says China has already sent warships to the oil rig confrontation.

"[Vietnam's fleet] is like a junior varsity team playing football against NFL pros," Thayer said. "Guess who's going to be pushed down the field?"

slavin.eric@stripes.com
Twitter: @eslavin_stripes

Bankruptcy of sister firm raises concerns about Naples base landlord

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — An Italian court has ruled that a sister firm of the company that owns and maintains the Navy support site here is bankrupt, raising concerns about the landlord's financial shape and the impact of the ruling on the base.

The three-judge panel with a civil court in Naples ruled this week that the firm Mirabella Spa is financially insolvent, with no way of meeting its short- and long-term commitments — including a large sum of unpaid taxes — and an inability to raise money through banks.

Mirabella SG is the construction arm of Gruppo Mirabella, which includes Mirabella SG, the firm that receives \$42 million

annually from the U.S. as owner and maintainer of the Navy support site in Grigignano d'Adesa. The support site provides housing, commissary and exchange stores for families assigned to bases in the area, including an installation at the Naples airport in Capodichino, home to U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and NATO's Joint Forces Command in nearby Lago Patria.

Naples base commander Capt. Scott Gray said Gruppo Mirabella warned him about the ruling last week and assured him operations on the base would continue as normal. Several skilled workers on the base are employees of Mirabella Spa and are expected to continue working or switch to another company in Gruppo Mirabella, Gray said he was told.

"We have not seen any impact," he said.

"Could there be? Absolutely. That's why we're tracking it."

The ruling adds to the Navy's unease over the financial condition of Gruppo Mirabella, which owns several developments in the area. Base officials who have worked closely with the company say it has been hit hard by the economic recession. Base workers employed by Mirabella Spa and Mirabella SG have gone on strike repeatedly on claims of irregular pay, causing work to be delayed.

"Absolutely it's a concern," Gray said. "We have gone to them on multiple occasions and said we pay you on time, we expect you to pay your workers on time so they show up to work and we don't suffer these labor disruptions that affect residents on the support site."

Gruppo Mirabella is hoping for a renewal of base contracts in 2015, which would be funded in the coming fiscal year if approved.

Mirabella Spa owed 63 million euros in unpaid taxes between 2003 and 2014, according to reports in the Italian newspapers Il Mattino and Corriere del Mezzogiorno. Tax authorities raided the company's office last summer to seize cash, and they seized company properties. Banks finally refused to lend the firm money, according to reports.

"At this point we have our contingency plans and we're watching and waiting to see what happens," Gray said.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sbeardsley

MILITARY

NATO: Russia again ups forces near Ukraine

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Thousands of Russian troops are back near the Ukrainian border, marking an escalation in tensions only weeks after Moscow began pulling back troops from the area, NATO's top official said Thursday.

"I can confirm that we now see a new Russian military buildup — at least a few thousand more Russian troops deployed to the Ukrainian border, and we see troop maneuvers in the neighborhood of Ukraine," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said during a visit at the London-based Chatham House think tank.

The return of troops to the border again raises the specter of further Russian intervention in Ukraine, which in turn would prompt an international response, according to Rasmussen.

"I consider this a very regrettable step backwards and it seems that Russia keeps the option to intervene further," said Rasmussen, as quoted by The Associated Press. "So the international community would have to respond firmly if Russia were to intervene further. That would imply deeper sanctions which would have a negative impact on Russia."

Rasmussen's comments come amid a flurry of military activity. Last week, NATO accused Russia of sending several tanks into Ukraine to support pro-Russian militants. Moscow has dismissed the claim.

Rasmussen, speaking in London, said Europe must do more to counter Russia's increased defense spending.

"Indeed, since 2008, Russia has increased its defense spending by around 50 percent while, on average, NATO allies have decreased theirs by about 20 percent," Rasmussen said. "This gap needs to be addressed."

"If we Europeans want the United States to remain committed to European security, we must show a commitment to pick up our part of the bill," Rasmussen said.

Despite the increases in Russia's defense spending, its total remains far below the level of NATO's 28 member states. According to statistics compiled by Stockholm's International Peace Research Institute, the combined defense expenditures of all NATO nations in 2013 amounted to \$1.02 trillion, while Russia's were \$90 billion.

Meanwhile, British jets were scrambled Tuesday to intercept several Russian fighters flying near NATO airspace in the Baltics, where an ongoing alliance air policing mission has witnessed a spike in Russian activity in recent years.

The Russian jets were armed, failed to file a flight plan and turned off their transponders, making them a safety hazard and invisible to commercial air traffic

control, according to a NATO official, who spoke under the usual conditions of anonymity.

"Over the last years we have seen an increase in Russian air activity close to our borders. We think this is because of increasing investment in defense," the official said. "These Russian fighters and bombers were armed and were not cooperating with civilian air traffic control, which is why NATO intercepted them. I want to stress that at no time have Russian jets violated NATO

airspace."

Britain's Defense Ministry said its Typhoons intercepted seven Russian aircraft, which appeared to be taking part in a training exercise.

Once airborne, the British jets identified the aircraft as a Tu-22 bomber, four Su-27 fighters, one Beriev A-50 early warning aircraft and an An-26 transport aircraft, the defense ministry reported.

"Since the start of the crisis in Ukraine we have seen a mod-

est increase in Russian air activity close to NATO's northern and eastern borders," the NATO official said.

The U.S. military said no American jets were involved in the intercept.

"Our increase in exercises and deployments to Poland and the Baltic nations has been in response to their concerns about Russian military actions in the region," the U.S. European Command said in a statement.

NATO air policing in Baltic air-

space has been going on for more than 10 years. During that time, NATO aircraft have routinely identified and escorted Russian aircraft in its vicinity. Since the crisis in Ukraine, NATO has tripled the aircraft on alert as part of the alliance's effort to reassure eastern members.

Last week, Russia also sent bombers near U.S. airspace, flying close to Alaska and California and prompting the U.S. Air Force to scramble fighter aircraft.

vandiver.john@stripes.com



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MILITARY

Cost of scramble to solve VA wait crisis: \$54B yearly

By TOM PHILPOTT

Like a waiter bringing the check after a high-spirited meal in a fine restaurant, the Congressional Budget Office has dampened some good vibes among lawmakers who rushed to solve the access-to-care crisis for veterans.

CBO estimates the cost of requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide non-VA medical care to any enrolled veteran who cannot get a VA medical appointment within 30 days, or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, to be a stunning \$54 billion annually.

That estimate, which accounts language in both the House and Senate versions of the bill that would end new guarantees on access to non-VA care after two years. But by then, CBO predicts, 2 million more vets who don't use VA care today will be drawn to it by new ease of access.

Veterans' service organizations, though grateful overall, are worried about unintended consequences of HR 4810, as passed by the House, and of HR 3230, as modified and passed by the Senate. If politicians aren't truly committed to treating more vets, then VA budgets to run existing facilities could be put at risk, and many vets won't see gains in access in the long term.

Executives of 17 major veterans' groups and military associations shared these and more concerns in a June 17 letter to chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate veterans affairs committees. They will lead House-Senate conferees in ironing out differences between their separate bills. Plans are to have a final bill to President Barack Obama by July 4.

"While we appreciate the speed with which you have moved, the opportunity for veterans organizations and other key stakeholders to provide substantive input to the process has been limited," warned the executives.

One big worry is that in mandating expansion of VA's purchased-care authority, Congress must commit to forcing VA to accurately estimate and budget for the added health costs. Congress, in turn, must fully fund the new authorities and not rely on budget "gimmicks" or shift funds from accounts needed to run VA hospitals, clinics and other health care programs.

"Unless additional funding is provided specifically for the expansion of purchased care, needed care will remain delayed and VA facilities will be forced to continue making tradeoffs," veterans' groups warned. They fear the VA having to choose between "providing additional access through purchased care [or] expanding the capacity for the future through additional hiring of clinicians, purchase of equipment or

MILITARY UPDATE

expansion of infrastructure."

The House passed its bill, from its VA committee chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., unanimously. The Senate bill drew only three "no" votes, all from Republicans worried about billions of dollars in unfunded costs. Sens. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, Ron Johnson, of Wisconsin and Jeff Sessions, of Alabama even wrote to House colleague Miller, usually a reliable deficit hawk, not to allow a final bill out of conference committee that would balloon VA health budgets.

Miller responded that he "is committed to paying for the reforms in a responsible manner that is fair to the taxpayers and to our veterans."

The Senate-passed Veterans Access to Care Act from VA committee chairman Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., would expand VA reliance on medical services contracts with non-VA health care providers so any eligible veteran who requests VA care gets it promptly.

CBO calls it "broad new authority" that would entice about 2 million more veterans to enroll in VA care, many shifting in from Medicare or Medicaid. The 8.3 million veterans already enrolled in VA care would seek to increase their use of VA care by about 75 percent, CBO estimates, given the new VA mandate on swift access or the convenience of local providers.

"All told," CBO said, "if the bill was fully implemented, some veterans would ultimately seek additional care that would cost the federal government about \$54 billion a year, after accounting for savings to other federal programs."

VA care, the CBO noted, "requires no premiums, imposes no deductibles and assesses low, or for many veterans, no copayments," and therefore would be attractive. But because new access mandates are to end after two years, about 6 million eligible veterans not currently enrolled

"would not change their health care arrangements for that short period."

New authorities in the House bill would expire two years after enactment but cover ongoing treatments up to 60 more days. Authorities, requirements and funding under the Senate bill would expire Sept. 30, 2016.

The Senate tagged its VA wait-time fix as an emergency appropriation, which lifts a requirement to find budget offsets to cover the cost. The House bill isn't paid for, except partially with funds once earmarked for VA employee bonuses. Miller and staff were looking for other offsets.

In a floor statement Wednesday, Miller criticized the Senate for giving VA a "blank check" to improve access to care. He recalled "hearing after hearing" on VA "wasteful spending" and "bloated bureaucracies."

"It is imperative that Congress follow a more methodical approach to funding new requirements, which preserves Congress' oversight responsibility to protect taxpayer resources provided on behalf of America's veterans. This is the House position and we ought to fight for it," Miller said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centennial, CO 80120, email mlupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

DOD: Remains of 17 recovered from '52 Alaska crash

Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday that the remains of 17 servicemembers have been recovered from a C-124 Globemaster aircraft that crashed in Alaska on Nov. 22, 1952.

A total of 52 crewmembers and passengers were aboard the aircraft that departed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and was heading to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Due to bad weather at the time, search-and-rescue crews were unable to locate and recover any of the servicemembers, according to a DOD statement.

On June 9, 2012, an Alaska National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew spotted aircraft wreckage and debris on Colony Glacier, west of Mount Gannett. Later that month, recovery operations began. In 2013, additional artifacts were visible and JPAC conducted further recovery operations.

DOD scientists used forensic tools and circumstantial evidence in the identification of 17 servicemembers, the DOD statement said.

The remaining personnel have yet to be recovered, and the crash site will continue to be monitored for future possible

recovery.

The following have been recovered and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors:

Army

- Lt. Col. Lawrence S. Singleton
- Pvt. James Green Jr.
- Pvt. Leonard A. Kittle
- U.S. Marine Corps
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NATION

Screening of migrant child sponsors resumes

By AMY TAXIN

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The federal government has resumed checking the fingerprints of people other than parents who step forward to care for migrant children detained at the border amid concern by immigrant advocates that skipping the screening could put children at risk.

Kenneth Wolfe, a spokesman for the Administration for Children and Families, said late Wednesday that the agency overseeing the shelter program for migrant children has gone back to a previous policy of only exempting parents and legal guardians from having their fingerprints taken. He said no child was harmed by the more lax fingerprint policy.

The number of Central Ameri-

can children apprehended at the border with Mexico has surged in recent weeks and could reach 90,000 this year. To speed children through shelters and to free up bed space, officials had stopped running fingerprint checks against criminal databases for parents and other sponsors who offered to care for them, immigrant advocates said.

Until last year, advocates said officials had checked the fingerprints of all sponsors, including parents.

"Anytime you are reducing the requirements, that is a concern," said Kimi Jackson, director of the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, which offers know-your-rights presentations to children in detention. "There are people who will sponsor kids out in order to use them



SUE OGROCKI/AP

A vehicle on Tuesday is driven by one of the entrances to Fort Sill, Okla., where hundreds of immigrant children are being housed temporarily.

for things that are not in their best interest."

Immigrant advocates say rising

gang violence and threats have driven the children to leave their countries and trek across Mexico

to reach the United States. Since last month, the Obama administration has opened temporary shelters on military bases to help care for the children until they can be reunited with sponsors, preferably parents or close adult relatives. Most of the children are reunited with family, according to Wolfe's agency.

Advocates say the government faces a daunting task of balancing speed and safety when releasing the children, many who are fleeing violent crime back home, to relatives or friends they haven't seen in years.

The average stay of a migrant child in a shelter is now near 35 days. It was 61 days between 2008 and 2010 in a study of 14,000 children by the Vera Institute of Justice.

Executions persist in some states in spite of concerns

By JIM SALTER

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — With Florida carrying out the nation's third execution in less than 24 hours, some pro-death-penalty states — particularly in the South — appear unfazed by the recent furor over how the U.S. performs lethal injections.

A botched execution seven weeks ago in Oklahoma amplified a national debate about the secretive ways many states obtain lethal-injection drugs from loosely regulated compounding pharmacies. Before Tuesday, nine executions were stayed or delayed — albeit some for reasons not related to the drug question.

Amid the court battles, many pro-death-penalty states kept pushing to resume executions, including the three carried out during the quick burst this week. Georgia and Missouri executed prisoners on an hour apart late Tuesday and early Wednesday, and John Ruhlert Henry was pronounced dead at 7:43 p.m. EDT Wednesday after receiving a lethal injection in Florida.

Austin Sarat, professor of jurisprudence and political science at Amherst College, said there has been a regional divide when it comes to how quickly states are returning to the business of putting prisoners to death.

"I think what you're going to see is kind of a division where some areas, some states, predominantly in the South, are going to dig in their heels," Sarat said. "Other states are going to proceed more cautiously and impose, if not an official moratorium, more of a de facto moratorium until things get sorted out."

The executions in Georgia and

Missouri were the first since April 29, when Oklahoma prison officials halted the process because drugs weren't being administered properly into the veins of inmate Clayton Lockett. He died of a heart attack 43 minutes after the process began.

Lawyers for death row inmates have cited concerns that what happened in Oklahoma could be repeated, and they've challenged the secretive ways many states obtain lethal-injection drugs from loosely regulated compounding pharmacies.

There appeared to be no noticeable glitches in the Georgia, Missouri or Florida lethal injections. Marcus Wellons, 59, was put to death in Georgia for the 1989 rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl. In Missouri, John Winfield, 46, was executed for killing two women in St. Louis County in 1996.

Henry, 63, was convicted of killing his estranged wife and her son in 1985.

Four states are responsible for 21 of the 23 executions so far this year: Texas with seven, Florida with six, Missouri with five and Oklahoma with three. Georgia and Ohio have performed one each.

Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a nonprofit that opposes executions and tracks the issue, said that while 32 states still have the death penalty on the books, the number of states actually performing executions has dropped sharply. Pennsylvania, for example, still has the death penalty but hasn't executed anyone since 1999. Utah has had one execution since 2000. Maryland and Washington had two in that same span.

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NATION

Timely warning saves residents in storm

Tornado strikes SD town, destroying homes; only 2 hurt

By CARSON WALKER

The Associated Press

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. — A timely warning allowed an entire South Dakota city to shelter from a tornado that razed dozens of homes and businesses but injured only two people, officials said Thursday.

Dedrich Koch, a Jerauld County prosecutor, said everyone was accounted for after the twister hit Wessington Springs just before 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Tornado alarms sounded several times, prompting residents to head to the city's emergency shelter in the basement of the courthouse, Koch said.

Ten businesses were destroyed and at least 43 houses were damaged or destroyed in the city of about 850 residents, he said early Thursday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp said law enforcement in Wessington Springs reported that the tornado went right "through the heart of town."

The American Legion, a bar, an auto dealer and several farms were destroyed or damaged.

Right now we are securing areas," Koch said late Wednesday.



BRIAN KIRK, KDLT/AP

A tornado hit Wessington Springs, S.D., on Wednesday, damaging homes and businesses and injuring two people, according to the National Weather Service and a hospital spokeswoman.

day. "We'll assess damage and cleanup in the morning when we get some light."

Lindsey Meyers, spokeswoman for Avera Health, said a woman was treated at the hospital in Wessington Springs and that she is in good condition.

Koch said that woman and her husband suffered minor injuries when the tornado hit their home near Alpena, about 15 miles east of Wessington Springs. He had no further details and did not identify the couple.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard arrived in the city about 125 miles northwest of Sioux Falls late Wednesday. He issued a statement saying at least 100 South Dakota National

Guard soldiers and equipment would be deployed to the city.

The city was without power overnight and Koch said generators would be made available. Meyers said some of the hospital's windows were broken in the storm and that the facility was operating on backup power.

He said the Red Cross would provide bedding and food for displaced residents.

Jaime Hoefert, of Wessington Springs, told KLO-TV she saw the tornado move over hills and through the town.

"We did see at least three homes destroyed with lots of structural damage around that area on the south side of town," Hoefert said.



CONNOR MCCROREY, TV/WEATHER.COM/AP

National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp confirmed that a tornado touched near Alpena, S.D., on Wednesday as well as nearby in Woonsocket and Wessington Springs.

Teacher raped after being left alone with sex offender

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A teacher at an Arizona prison was alone in a room full of sex offenders before being stabbed and sexually assaulted by a convicted rapist, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press about an attack that highlighted major security lapses at the facility.

The attack occurred Jan. 30 at the Eymann prison's Meadows Unit, which houses about 1,300 rapists, child molesters and other sex offenders. The teacher was administering a high school equivalency test to about a half-dozen inmates in a classroom with no guard nearby and only a radio to summon help. The Department of Corrections issued only a bare-bones press release after the attack, but the AP pieced together what happened based on interviews and investigatory reports obtained under the Arizona Public Records Act.

After the last of the other inmates left, Jacob Harvey asked the teacher if she could open the bathroom and then attacked her, records show. Harvey is accused of stabbing her in the head with a pen, forcing her to the ground and raping her.

The teacher told investiga-

tors that she screamed for help, but none came. Afterward, Harvey tried to use her radio to call for help. It had apparently been changed to a channel the unit's guards didn't use, so Harvey let the woman use a phone, according to the reports.

Carl ToersBijns, a former deputy warden at the prison, said the assault highlights chronic understaffing and lax security policies that put staff members at risk.

"Here you've got a guy that commits a hell of a crime ... and he's put into an environment that actually gives him an opportunity to do his criminality because of a lack of staffing," said ToersBijns, who was deputy warden at the Eymann prison in Florence until retiring in 2010 and oversaw the Meadows Unit for 19 months.

Department of Corrections spokesman Doug Nick said classrooms at prisons across the state are having cameras installed. But he said no administrative investigation was launched because there was no need, and no one was disciplined. He said all prisons are dangerous places and staff are trained accordingly.

Nick also said that not having a guard in classrooms or nearby "follows accepted corrections practices nationwide."

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NATION

Suit: Eagle death permits are illegal

Federal rule allows wind-energy companies to kill birds for 25 years without prosecution

By DINA CAPPIELLO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A conservation group says it's suing the Obama administration over a new federal rule that allows wind-energy companies to seek approval to kill or injure eagles for 30 years.

The lawsuit from the American Bird Conservancy was expected to be filed Thursday in federal court in San Jose, Calif. A copy of the complaint was obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The group argues that the rule, which extended by 25 years the length of time companies may kill or injure eagles without fear of prosecution, is illegal because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to evaluate the consequences and ensure it would not damage eagle populations. The Obama administration classified the rule as an administrative

change, excluding it from a full environmental review.

"In the government's rush to expand wind energy, shortcuts were taken in implementing this rule that should not have been allowed," said Michael Hutchins, the national coordinator of the conservancy's wind energy program.

Under President Barack Obama, wind energy has exploded as a pollution-free energy source that can help reduce the gases blamed for global warming. But it is not without environmental costs.

An AP investigation last year documented dozens of eagle deaths at wind farms, findings later confirmed by federal biologists. Each one is a violation of federal law, but the Obama administration to date has prosecuted only one company, Duke Energy Corp., for killing 14 eagles and 149 other birds at two Wyoming wind farms.

The wind energy industry sought the change to reduce its liability.

Self-defense gun laws again put to test

By SADIE GURMAN
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado prosecutor said he's frustrated that the state's "Make My Day" law prevents him from charging a man who killed an acquaintance during a drunken brawl that spilled into his home, becoming the latest test to self-defense gun laws nationwide.

The New Year's Day shooting involving "foolish, drunken children" likely was not what lawmakers had in mind when they adopted Colorado's law, Mesa County District Attorney Pete Hautzinger said. It protects homeowners from prosecution for using deadly force when someone illegally enters their home and there's reason to believe that person will commit a crime.

Self-defense laws such as Colorado's have received renewed attention recently after deadly shootings in Montana, Minnesota and Nevada.

After a six-month investigation, Hautzinger decided last week not to file charges against Joseph Hoskins, 36, in the death of Randy Cook, 47.

After a night of drinking at a party in the western Colorado city of Grand Junction, Cook and another man went to fight Hoskins outside his house. The fight moved inside and to Hoskins' bedroom, where the homeowner said Cook

tried to snatch away his shotgun. Hoskins tackled Cook and shot him, according to Hoskins' account of the night, which was relayed to investigators through an attorney.

'These grown men ... acting like drunken children, and as a result, a good man got killed, and I can't hold anyone accountable for it in the criminal justice system.'

Pete Hautzinger
Mesa County, Colo.,
District Attorney

in an ongoing Facebook feud between Hoskins and the other man that had been brewing for days before they decided to square off, he said.

"It sticks in my craw to be unable to hold Joseph Hoskins

accountable for his actions," Hautzinger said.

Hoskins did not return calls seeking comment, and his attorney, Terry Ryan, said he could not talk about the case.

Cook's brother, Stacey Cook, said aspects of the investigation remain undone. Prosecutors should have looked more closely at video evidence showing Cook walking away from the brawl and Hoskins following and taunting him before they fought, he said.

Beginning with Florida in 2005, at least 22 states have expanded the self-defense principle known as the "castle doctrine," the premise that a person has the right to defend his or her home against attack. Colorado was not among them. The broadened laws say the doctrine can be applied to confrontations outside the home.

The laws make it easier for a person to shoot someone and avoid prosecution by saying they felt an imminent danger, which has increasingly placed the burden on prosecutors to prove self-defense did not occur, said Steven Jansen, vice president of the Washington-based Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

"It has created an increase in investigation and an increase in frustration among prosecutors when trying to make prosecutions," he said. "You have to proactively anticipate that self-defense is going to be claimed."

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IRAQ



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Iraqi Shiite tribal fighters raise their weapons and chant slogans against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant after authorities urged Iraqis to help battle insurgents in Baghdad's Sadr City on Wednesday.

Obama: US will send up to 300 military to Iraq

Servicemembers to act in advisory role to help Iraqi forces

By LARA JAKES
AND JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Edging back into a military role in Iraq, President Barack Obama on Thursday said he was dispatching up to 300 military advisers to help quell the rising insurgency in the crumbling state. He called on Iraqi leaders to govern with a more "inclusive agenda" to ensure the country does not descend into civil war.

Though not specifically mentioning airstrikes, an option the U.S. has been considering, Obama said he was leaving open the possibility of "targeted" military action in the future. He said the U.S. also would increase its intelligence efforts in Iraq and create joint operations centers in Baghdad and northern Iraq.

When coupled with previously announced steps, Obama's actions could put about 600 additional U.S. troops back on the ground in Iraq. The 300 military advisers he announced Thursday would join up to 275 being positioned in and around Iraq to provide security and support for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and other American interests.

But he was adamant that U.S. troops would not be returning to combat.

"We do not have the ability to simply solve this problem by sending in tens of thousands of troops and committing the kinds of blood

and treasure that has already been expended in Iraq," Obama told reporters in the White House briefing room. "Ultimately, this is something that is going to have to be solved by Iraqis."

Sketching a dire situation, Obama called this a moment when "the state of Iraq hangs in the balance."

He stopped short of calling for Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to resign, saying "it's not our job to choose Iraq's leaders." But he said those leaders "must rise above their differences and come together" for the sake of their nation.

"Only leaders that can govern with an inclusive agenda are going to be able to truly bring the Iraqi people together and help them through this crisis," he said.

Offering a hopeful thought, Obama added that as the prospect of civil war heightens, many Iraqi leaders are "stepping back and saying, 'let's not plunge back into the abyss.'"

Obama spoke after meeting with his national security team to discuss military options and consider how strongly to press al-Maliki to undertake changes and make his government more inclusive. Top U.S. officials believe that giving more credence to Sunni concerns about al-Maliki may offer the best opportunity to stave off another deadly round of sectarian fighting of the kind that engulfed Iraq less than a decade ago.

U.S. officials have been concerned that pushing al-Maliki too hard might stiffen his resolve to stay in office and drive him closer to Iran, which is seeking to keep the Shiite leader in power. However the administration does want to see evidence of a leadership transition plan being put in place in Iraq.

Obama said the U.S. military advisers' role would be to "assess how we can best train, advise and support Iraqi security forces."

"American forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq, but we will help Iraqis as they take the fight to terrorists who threaten the Iraqi people in the region and American interests as well," he said.

Asked later whether the U.S. was opening the door broader military involvement, Obama said: "I think we always have to guard against mission creep. So, let me repeat what I've said in the past: American combat troops are not going to be fighting in Iraq again."

The U.S. withdrew the last American troops from Iraq in late 2011 after more than eight years of war and the loss of more than 4,400 U.S. lives.

But faced with a growing Sunni insurgency, Iraq's government has asked the U.S. to launch airstrikes to contain a militant group that seized Mosul, Tikrit and other towns in Iraq as the country's military melted away.

Crisis in Iraq prompts soul-searching among vets who served there

By GREG JAFFE
AND KEVIN MAURER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The sudden collapse of Iraqi forces in the face of lightly armed insurgents has catalyzed an emotional debate within the U.S. military about a war that, just a few years ago, seemed on the brink of going down in history as a success.

In an echo of the post-Vietnam era, some military officers believe the war could and should have been won. They blame civilian leaders — chief among them President Barack Obama — for failing to press harder for a political agreement that would have allowed the military to remain on the ground long enough to secure victory.

"Anyone who was there during the surge came away very encouraged about the future of the country if we had continued to stay engaged," said retired Col. Peter Mansoor, who served as a top adviser to Gen. David Petraeus in Baghdad and wrote a history of the latter years of the war.

That argument is deeply reminiscent of the aftermath of Vietnam War, when the Army blamed its defeat on President Lyndon B. Johnson and other micromanaging civilian leaders who put restrictions on the military's use of firepower and whose bombing targets from the White House.

It's countered by others who witnessed the chaos of the war up close. On his Facebook page, Maj. Andrew Rohrer, who served in Iraq as a junior officer, blamed feuding Iraqi politicians for the country's collapse, calling the war "an Iraqi problem that we never could have fixed in a hundred years."

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Wednesday acknowledged both arguments. The Iraqi army and police needed a longer-term U.S. military advisory presence to help with planning and logistics, he said, but a few thousand U.S. advisers wouldn't have prevented the chaos caused by the Iraqi political leaders' score-settling and sectarian behavior.

"The problem today is that the [Iraqi] government hasn't acted responsibly," Dempsey said in Senate testimony.

Now the U.S. military resolves today's internal debate could have profound implications for the shape of its future force. Those who blame America's political leaders for the recent failings in Iraq are more likely to support a big, conventional military that can, if needed, function as an effective occupation force. Skeptics are more inclined to champion a smaller military that relies more heavily on precision firepower, technology and advisers to support local fighters and minimize America's potential losses.

The outcome of this internal debate could also influence the

advice that top generals give regarding future conflicts. "Iraq has become a proxy for the debate about Afghanistan, Syria and Iran," said Peter Feaver, a Duke University political scientist and former National Security Council official.

For both sides, the debate over who lost Iraq remains raw and emotional. Many of today's military officers still carry fresh memories of friends killed in battle.

"My sadness is not for the Iraqis, but for the wasted effort so many of us gave and bought at so high a price," said one Army officer who was granted anonymity to discuss his feelings about the conflict.

Today, most Iraq War veterans feel tremendous pride in their service, mixed with a deep cynicism regarding the war's goals and its outcome. A Washington Post poll of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans taken a few months before the re-

cent chaos found that only 44 percent believed the Iraq war had been worth fighting. Nearly 90 percent, though, said they would volunteer to serve again. Those somewhat contradictory feelings have grown more intense in recent days. As the president weighed his military options in Iraq, Col. Steve Miska, who spent 40 months in the country, called his brother, who is also a veteran of multiple Iraq tours. The war had consumed much of the two brothers' lives since the 2003 invasion. Now the two career soldiers — one an officer, the other a sergeant major — were on the verge of retirement.

"What a mess," Miska texted his brother as ISIL troops pressed towards Baghdad last week.

"Hopefully all our guys that gave their lives didn't do it for nothing," his brother replied.

The two then spoke on the phone. Miska insisted that their service — especially during the 2007 surge — had made a difference in Iraq. At that point in the war, Sunni and Shia death squads had taken hold of the capital. "I have no doubt that we helped stop a civil war," Miska recalled telling his brother. "I have no doubt we saved thousands of Iraqi lives."

For him, the current mess in Iraq defies any simple explanation.

"I don't think the military lost in Iraq," Miska said. "We created a window of opportunity. It just didn't break the Iraqis' way."

Col. Steve Miska

IRAQ

Militants fly flags over large oil refinery

BY SAMEER N. YACOB
AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers and helicopter gunships battled Sunni militants for a third day on Thursday for control of Iraq's largest oil refinery, the loss of which would be a devastating symbol of the Baghdad government's powerlessness in the face of a determined insurgency hostile to the West.

The two sides held different parts of the sprawling Beiji facility, which extends over several square kilometers of desert. The facility accounts for just over a quarter of the country's entire refining capacity and goes toward domestic consumption for things like gasoline, cooking oil and fuel for power stations.

The militants, led by the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, clearly hope to get millions of dollars in revenue from operating the refinery — as they did for a while after seizing oil fields in neighboring Syria. More broadly, however, capturing the facility could weaken Prime Minister Nouri al-

Maliki's hold on power by calling into question his ability to stop the militants' advance anywhere in Iraq.

A witness who drove past the facility said the militants manned checkpoints around it and hung their black banners on watchtowers. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared reprisals.

One of the militants laying siege to the refinery confirmed by telephone that the facility remained in government hands, saying helicopter gunships slowed the insurgents' advance. The militant identified himself only by his alias, Abu Anas, but there was no way to verify his identity or location.

A top Iraqi security official also said the government still held the facility but that the refinery's workers were evacuated to nearby villages.

The army officer in charge of protecting the refinery, Col. Ali al-Qureshi, told state-run Iraqi television by telephone that the facility remained under his control. He said his forces had killed nearly 100 militants since Tuesday.



AP photo

Smoke rises from an oil refinery in Beiji, Iraq, on Thursday.

Photos obtained by The Associated Press showed the charred skeletons of destroyed army vehicles sitting by a road that runs past the facility. The photos, taken Thursday, also show U.S.-made Humvees captured by the militants flying jihadist banners and heavily armed militants manning a checkpoint. In the background,

there is heavy black smoke rising up from the refinery.

Any lengthy outage at Beiji risks long lines at the gas pump and electricity shortages, adding to the chaos already facing Iraq. It produces around 300,000 barrels per day.

Gasoline produced at the refinery largely goes to northern Iraq

and its closure has caused a shortage in the region. In Irbil in Iraq's Kurdish region, lines stretched for miles for open gas stations as angry motorists shouted at each other. Some bought fuel to power generators as electricity went out in some areas held by the Islamic State.

"Everybody in Mosul and the (northern) Nineva province is coming to Kurdistan to fill up on gas," said a resident of a village near Mosul who gave his name as Mohammed. "And they don't have enough here."

The assault on the refinery also has affected global gasoline prices, as the U.S. national average price reached \$3.68 per gallon, the highest price for this time of year since 2008, the year gasoline hit its all-time high in America.

It isn't clear what the insurgents would do if they fully captured Beiji. In Syria, the Islamic State has control of some smaller oil fields, but government air raids have limited their ability to profit from them. Militants have, however, refined oil into usable fuel products at primitive refineries.

Sykes-Picot Agreement: Line in the sand still shapes Middle East

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

The stunning victories by Islamic militants in northern Iraq have drawn attention to a militant group whose goal is an Islamic state encompassing parts of Iraq, Syria and other countries of the eastern Mediterranean.

To outsiders, the goals sound delusional. But many Arab politicians have complained for years that the current political divisions of the Middle East are artificial, drawn by European imperialists of a bygone age to keep the Arab peoples weak and divided.

Here's a look at who's responsible for the current borders in the Middle East that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is fighting so hard to redraw:

Sykes-Picot Agreement

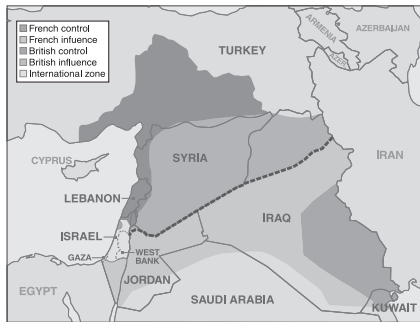
In the midst of World War I, two minor French and British officials, Mark Sykes and Francois-Georges Picot, held a series of secret meetings in 1915 during which they drew a blueprint to carve up the Ottoman Empire, which was fighting alongside Britain and France's German enemy.

Sykes and Picot divided Ottoman territories in what was once called the Fertile Crescent into British and French zones of influence along an east-west axis stretching from the Mediterranean to Iran.

France was allocated Syria and Lebanon, while Britain would control what is now Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and most of Iraq.

Britain had long coveted the re-

The Sykes-Picot line dividing the Middle East during World War I between Britain and France



Noca Am-raw/Stars and Stripes

gion to secure land and sea routes to British India. Britain offered a piece to France and to Russia as incentives to continue the war against Germany, though the Russians disavowed the deal after the Bolshevik Revolution took Russia out of the conflict in 1917.

Under pressure from President Woodrow Wilson, who insisted local populations determine their own political future, the British and the French agreed not to colonize the region outright but instead to establish "indigenous governments and administrations in Syria and Mesopotamia," or Iraq.

After Wilson suffered a stroke in 1919, the two European powers

dropped the pretense and established direct rule over the newly acquired territories.

Although there was some change in the 1915 division, including expanding Britain's control of northern Iraq and dropping claims on what is now part of Turkey, the basic division into French and British zones, along artificial borders drawn up in secret by outsiders, was the basis for the modern borders between Syria and Iraq.

What did Arabs think?

Sykes and Picot never consulted local inhabitants or political leaders in the Middle East. In

fact, the world learned of the plan only after the new, communist government in Russia published the text in party newspapers.

According to James Barr, author of the book "A Line in the Sand: Britain, France and the struggle that shaped the Middle East," many officials in Britain, France and the United States realized the flaws of the plan and that "the Arabs weren't getting anything."

A major flaw: Britain had encouraged local Arab leaders, including the ancestor of the Jordanian royal family, to join a revolt against the Ottoman Turks, promising them an independent Arab kingdom in the former Turkish territory. Much of what the Arabs expected ended up under French and British control.

The British then subdivided their zone into Palestine, Jordan and Iraq. Britain installed two sons of their chief Arab ally onto the thrones of new kingdoms in Jordan and Iraq, but held on to most of the power itself.

The affected territories — Lebanon and Syria in the French zone and Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Kuwait in the British zone — did not achieve full independence until after World War II.

Were Arabs satisfied?

Yes and no. Since World War II, several Arab nationalist leaders and pan-Arab movements have attempted to unite the countries established as a result of the Sykes-Picot divisions. Arab nationalists, most of them secularists, argued that the colonial-era divisions were designed to keep the Arabs weak and divided, depriving them

of the glories of Medieval Islamic empires that were once far more advanced in education, science, trade and governance than their European contemporaries.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser sought to unify the Arab world, but unsuccessfully to unite his country with the republics of Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Plans to unify Jordan and Iraq, whose kings were from branches of the same family installed by the British, fell apart after the Iraqi king was overthrown in 1958.

Saddam Hussein, who at the time was vice president, ousted the president and seized full power in 1979 to block a planned unification of Syria and Iraq, which would have sidelined him politically.

Palestine

Separately from the Sykes-Picot agreement, the British government in 1917 agreed to "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," despite opposition from local Arabs who formed the vast majority of the population. Sykes and Picot had agreed that an "international administration" would be established in an area that was later to become Palestine, but London never implemented that part of the accord.

Sykes died in Paris in 1919 of flu, without seeing his plan implemented. He was 39. Picot, the great-uncle of former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, died in Paris in 1951 at the age of 80.

lekic.slobodan@stars.com

WORLD

Militant an unlikely leader before Benghazi

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM,
NIZAR SARIELDIN
AND DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD
The Washington Post

TRIPOLI, Libya — Ahmed Abu Khattala — the Islamist militant captured by U.S. forces in Libya during the weekend — did not seem to have the personality for leadership. He was a standoffish oddball, the son of a government employee, who had spent more than a decade in the brutal prisons of ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

But, in the chaotic time after Gadhafi's fall, Abu Khattala had two credentials that led people to follow him. The prison time was one. The other was a fierce disdain for anyone who had worked with Gadhafi's government.

In a country full of guns and anger, Khattala came to command his own militia. He appeared to be untainted in a country where few leaders had no connections to the hated, old leadership.

Commanding a brigade "is a very complicated task, and he is a very simple man," said Mohamed Abu Sidra, a prominent member of Libya's General National Congress, who had spent time in prison with Abu Khattala. At the time, Abu Sidra said, he was surprised to hear that Abu Khattala — known in prison as a loner who talked to himself — was in charge of something so big.

Now, Khattala's militia is blamed for two of the most infamous acts of violence in Libya's bloody postrevolutionary years. One was the 2011 killing of Gen. Abdul Fattah Younis, a former Gadhafi loyalist who had defected to lead the rebels fighting the ruler.

The other was the reason that Abu Khattala was snatched in a joint Special Operations-FBI mission last weekend. Abu Khattala is suspected of serving as a ring-leader in the attacks on an American compound in Benghazi in 2012 that left four dead, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

By 2012, the formal militia he commanded during the uprising had been dismantled, but people here say he had a core following of mostly young jihadists and Islamists from his neighborhood whom he could rally and that he was giving orders to



Glass, debris and overturned furniture are strewn inside a room Sept. 12, 2012, in the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, after an attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

them on the night of the Benghazi attack.

Since then, however, it appears that the personality that had briefly turned Abu Khattala into a leader had turned him into a loner again.

He was said to move about Benghazi by himself — a reckless decision, because both the Americans and a renegade anti-Islamist general were probably looking for him. Some of the more powerful militias had tried to rein in his movements and put him under their protection, according to one former Benghazi fighter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of potential backlash.

"His followers are shocked" by the news of his capture, the former fighter said from Benghazi. "They can't believe it."

Abu Khattala is apparently in his early 40s; his exact age is unclear. Ali Soufan, a former FBI agent who tracks extremists, said Abu Khattala was born in 1973 in Benghazi. Soufan said he comes from a middle-class Libyan family; his father was a government employee and is now retired. He has a younger brother who was born in 1975 and works in the medical field, Soufan said.

Abu Khattala was arrested in about

1991 by the Gadhafi government for his involvement in Islamist militant activities in Benghazi. Soufan said Abu Khattala spent a long stint in the infamous Abu Salim prison in Tripoli.

He apparently was released in 2004 as part of an amnesty program sponsored by Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, the dictator's son.

After his release, Abu Khattala — a burly man — had started a small construction company in Benghazi, hiring local youths to help paint and build houses, his neighbor said. In 2012, he told reporters from the Reuters news agency that he did not attend university, had never left the country and was unmarried.

"He was a quiet man, a mysterious man," said a neighbor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from Islamist militias there. Others who met Abu Khattala in Benghazi describe him as extremely serious and resolutely opposed to the efforts to build a democratic state.

"Nobody in the neighborhood really knew him," the neighbor said, adding that even he was unsure if Abu Khattala had married.

In 2011, a rebellion against Gadhafi began in the east of Libya, where Benghazi

is located. Abu Khattala used his local network to collect money for food, clothes and even weapons for the fighters.

Eventually, Abu Khattala took up arms, himself. He started a small Islamist militia called Obeida ibn al-Jarrah and later came to ally himself with Ansar al-Sharia, though militia leaders here say that relationship is somewhat murky. That militia, whose name means "partisans of Islamic law," espouses an extremely conservative Salafist strain of Islam.

"He is a jihadist," said Adel Hasi, a former rebel commander who last met with Abu Khattala earlier this year to discuss building an Islamic state in Libya. Unlike the rest of the brigades fighting Gadhafi, Abu Khattala "refused to cooperate with any army or police who had defected to the rebels," he said.

Abu Khattala lived in the family home in the al-Laithi district of Benghazi, known for its unusually large population of Islamist militants, according to locals. The modest, concrete-brick home remains unpainted and is a drab, steely gray. In the salon where Abu Khattala receives guests, two flags adorned with the Muslim profession of faith, and associated with al-Qaida and jihadist movements, are mounted on a wooden cabinet.

The evening of Sept. 11, 2012, brought an unprecedented level of scrutiny to Islamist groups in Benghazi. That night, Islamist militias attacked the U.S. diplomatic mission in the city, then assaulted a nearby CIA compound early the next morning. The chaotic assault left the diplomatic post in flames and resulted in the deaths of Stevens and three other Americans. To this day, the attacks are a controversial topic in U.S. politics.

Abu Khattala has always denied involvement in the Benghazi attacks, but U.S. officials have repeatedly blamed him and Ansar al-Sharia. In August, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia filed charges against him.

Abu Khattala has also been named a "specially designated global terrorist," allowing officials to freeze his financial assets and bar American citizens and companies from doing business with him. Multiple journalistic sources have linked him to the attacks: A long 2013 investigation by The New York Times referenced a number of witnesses who placed Abu Khattala at the scene during the attack on the diplomatic post and said he appeared to be directing it.

Watchdog accuses Syria's Kurdish party of abuses

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — An international rights group said Thursday that Kurdish authorities ruling three enclaves in northeastern Syria have committed abuses, including arbitrary arrests of political opponents, and have failed to address abductions and unresolved killings in areas under their control. Human Rights Watch said in a new 107-page report that the Kurdish Democratic Union Party also has used children in its armed wing known as the People's Protection Units.

Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Syria, making up more than 10 percent of the country's

prewar population of 23 million. They are centered in the impoverished northeastern province of Hassakeh, wedged between the borders of Turkey and Iraq.

President Bashar Assad's forces largely pulled out of Hassakeh in late 2012 when the Syrian military was stretched thin by fighting with rebels elsewhere in the country, effectively ceding control of the area. Their withdrawal sparked a fierce competition between rebels and the Kurds.

The Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD, is affiliated with the Kurdish PKK movement in Turkey, which long fought for autonomy in the southeast.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres greets a Syrian child Thursday during his visit to Khaldet, south of Beirut, Lebanon.

Chinese man gets death in fatal 1-child dispute

BEIJING — A Chinese court on Thursday sentenced to death a man who killed two government workers and injured four other people in an argument related to the one-child policy, China's official news agency reported.

In addition, He Shenguo was ordered to pay \$45,000 in compensation after he was convicted of intentional homicide by the court in southern Guangxi region, Xinhua reported. Calls to Fangchenggang Intermediate People's Court rang unanswered.

He slashed people at a family-planning office after it refused to register his fourth child because he hadn't paid a fee levied on parents who break family-planning rules.

From The Associated Press

NATION



Return of 'Big Boy'

Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP

Spectators take pictures of the historic locomotive Union Pacific Big Boy No. 4014 at Metrolink Station in Covina, Calif.

Huge steam locomotive to be restored, come back to life after half a century

By DAN ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — In its prime, a massive steam locomotive known as Big Boy No. 4014 was a moving eruption of smoke and vapor, a 6,300-horsepower brute dragging heavy freight trains over the mountains of Wyoming and Utah.

It's been silent for half a century, pushed aside by more efficient diesels, but now it's coming back to life. The Union Pacific Railroad is embarking on a yearslong restoration project that will put No. 4014 back to work pulling special excursion trains.

"It's sort of like going and finding the Titanic or something that's just very elusive, nothing that we ever thought would happen," said Jim Wrinn, editor of *Trains*,

a magazine that covers the railroad industry.

"Something that's so large and powerful and magnificent, we didn't think any of them would ever come back," he said.

The American Locomotive Co. in Schenectady, N.Y., built 25 of the legendary monsters to Union Pacific's specifications between 1941 and 1944.

An unknown worker scrawled "Big Boy" on the front of one of the engines when it was under construction.

"It came out one day, and it had 'Big Boy' in chalk on it. And from that day forward, it was Big Boy," said Ed Dickens Jr., Union Pacific's senior manager of heritage operations, who will oversee the restoration at the railroad's steam shop in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Dickens and his crew recreated the chalk inscription on No. 4014 when they began to move it.

The Big Boys were the largest steam locomotives ever to work the rugged terrain of the American West, and by most standards, the largest anywhere in the world, said Gordon McCulloh, a meticulous historian of Union Pacific steam power.

Big Boys are 132 feet long, including the tender, which carried coal and water. They weigh 1.2 million pounds with a full load of fuel. They are essentially two engines under one boiler, with two sets of eight drive wheels, each set powered by two enormous cylinders nearly 2 feet across.

And they aren't just big, McCulloh said. They were engineered to reach 80 mph, though the railroad never intended to run

them that fast. The point was to fine-tune the locomotives so they stayed in balance at any speed and didn't beat themselves up with their own powerful forces.

"You get all that machinery to live in harmony," McCulloh said.

Seventeen Big Boys were scrapped when they were pulled from service, but eight survived and are on display around the country. Union Pacific chose the 4014 for restoration because it spent more than 50 years in the friendly climate of Southern California, at the RailGiant's Train Museum at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds.

The museum took good care of the locomotive, Dickens said, and many of the original components are usable.

FAITH

Burning faith

Zoroastrians, who stress good deeds and fire, gather in Iran to remember princess

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

CHAK CHAK, Iran — Adherents of the Zoroastrian religion from around the world gathered at a mountain shrine in central Iran last week to celebrate their Persian roots, praying in remembrance of a princess who fled the seventh-century Arab invasion.

At Chak Chak, 370 miles southeast of the capital Tehran, believers gathered to remember Nikbanou, a heroine of the faith who according to tradition took shelter in the mountain and prayed for help. Miraculously, the mountain was said to have opened up and given protection to the princess, the youngest daughter of the last king of the Persian Sassanian empire.

A spring slowly drips from the ceiling of the shrine, built into a cliff-side cave, giving the site its name, which means "drip drip" in Persian. Tradition says the spring is the mountain shedding tears in remembrance of Nikbanou. An immense tree stands nearby, said to have grown from Nikbanou's cane.

"We've all gathered here to remember Nikbanou and celebrate our deep Persian roots," said priest Ardeshir Khorshidian, who was dressed in white to symbolize purity.

Many pilgrims stay overnight at pavilions set up at the base of the mountain. Families sitting on rugs had picnics while children played.

Dariush Tirandazi, an Iranian-American Zoroastrian, brought his daughter Nadia, 22, so she could experience the faith in the land where it was born.

"She wanted to learn and this was our chance to come here and



A Zoroastrian woman holds a portrait of the prophet Zoroaster, who founded Zoroastrianism as a monotheistic religion predating Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

show her the temple, to give her the chance to be with Zoroastrians and understand Zoroastrian culture and values," Tirandazi said.

Zoroastrianism is a monotheistic religion predating Christianity and Islam founded 3,800 years ago by Zoroaster. It was the dominant religion in Persia before the Arab conquest. It stresses good deeds, and fire plays a central role in worship as a symbol of truth and the spirit of God.

Thousands of Zoroastrians, like many other Iranians, immigrated under former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad because



PHOTOS BY ESRAHIM NOROOZI/AP

Zoroastrian priest Kamran Lorian leads a prayer June 13 in Chak Chak, Iran, a mountain shrine. Adherents of the Zoroastrian religion from around the world gathered last week to celebrate their Persian roots, praying in remembrance of a princess who fled the seventh-century Arab invasion.



Zoroastrians kiss the gate doors of the shrine in Chak Chak.

of social restrictions and a worsening economy. Now a dozen have returned to live in Iran this past year, the government said.

President Hassan Rouhani has appointed former intelligence chief Ali Yunesi as his top aide to

specifically address the concerns of Iran's religious minorities.

Esfandiar Ekhtiari, in Iran's parliament, said his fellow believers have been denied top government jobs because of their religion.

Ekhtiari urged Zoroastrians living abroad to return to Iran and join the 25,000 fellow believers who live there today.

"Return to your motherland, and rest assured that we welcome you with open arms," he said.



Zoroastrians pray Saturday in Setipir Shrine in Yazd, Iran.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY EMILIO MORENATI/AP

Spain's newly crowned King Felipe VI and his wife, Queen Letizia, wave to the crowd Thursday from the Royal Palace in Madrid.

New reign in Spain

Facing recession and high jobless rate, King Felipe VI hopes to inspire, energize

BY HAROLD HECKLE
AND BARRY HATTON

The Associated Press

MADRID — Taking the Spanish throne on Thursday, King Felipe VI sought to inspire his beleaguered countrymen amid troubled economic times and lift patriotic spirits a day after the national team's humbling exit from the World Cup.

"We are a great nation. Let us believe and trust in ourselves," Felipe said at his swearing-in ceremony.

Felipe, 46, became monarch after his father, Juan Carlos, announced his surprise decision to abdicate. The 76-year-old said he was stepping aside after a four-decade reign so younger royal blood could energize the country.

Felipe, and Spain, face plenty of problems. The country is struggling to shrug off a double-dip recession and drive down its 26 percent jobless rate. Scandals have tarnished the royal family and fueled campaigns to abolish the mon-

archy, while influential groups in some Spanish regions continue to push hard for independence.

Appearing self-assured in a dark military dress uniform, Felipe sought to draw a line under Spain's recent past, promising "a reinvigorated monarchy for new times."

Felipe made clear that he intends to restore public trust in the monarchy.

"Today, more than ever, the people rightly demand our public lives be guided by ... moral and ethical principles," he told lawmakers, who shouted "Viva el Rey (Long live the king)!"

Saying he felt the suffering of those whose living standards were hurt by the economic crisis, Felipe urged Spaniards to shun resignation and unleash their ambitions. He said finding jobs for the unemployed was "a priority for society and the government."

In an oblique reference to separatist groups, Felipe said, "We all have our place in this diverse Spain."



People wave Spanish flags in Madrid to celebrate Spain's newly crowned king.

He ended his speech by saying "thank you" in three regional Spanish languages — Catalan, Basque and Galician — where independence movements are strongest.

Thousands of people lined the streets of Madrid streets as Felipe and Queen Letizia drove from parliament to the royal palace in an open-topped Rolls-Royce, waving to the crowds. The royal couple's daughters, Princesses Leonor, 8, and Sofia, 7, accompanied them for most of the day.

The cheering crowds and pagentry provided a welcome distraction as Spaniards reeled from

the embarrassment of the national team's shock defeat by Chile in the World Cup, which ended Spanish hopes of winning a second consecutive title.

Felipe's inaugural speech came at a ceremony in the country's parliament, where the 18th-century Spanish crown and 17th-century scepter were on display. Later, a reception for 2,000 guests at the royal place featured finger foods instead of an elaborate banquet, a deliberately modest touch that acknowledged the financial hardships being endured by many Spaniards.

Researcher rescued from cave after 11-day ordeal

The Associated Press

BERLIN — After spending nearly two weeks underground, an injured German caver was hauled out of the country's deepest cavern Thursday by a multinational rescue operation that involved more than 700 people.

Johann Westhauser, an experienced caver, had gone into the Riesending cave system in the Alps with two companions to carry out research and measurements. He was hit in the head during a June 8 rock fall while nearly 3,280 feet underground.

After lengthy preparations, rescue teams five days later began the arduous task of hauling him up through a labyrinth of narrow passages and precipitous vertical shafts. Rescuers brought the 52-year-old the final 590 feet to the surface Thursday and immediately sent him to a hospital.

"A chapter of Alpine rescue history has been written here over the last 12 days," Bavarian mountain rescue chief Norbert Heiland said, adding that officials initially doubted a rescue was possible.

The rescue became a media event, with multiple spreads in German tabloids.

In all, 728 people from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Croatia participated in the operation, operation director Klaus Reindl told reporters in nearby Berchtesgaden.

"Since the birth of caving, there have been only two incidents of this depth, complexity and difficulty," Italian rescuer Roberto Conti said.

A fit expert could climb from the accident site to the entrance in about 12 hours, but rescuers had to haul Westhauser on a stretcher.

Westhauser's condition has been described throughout as stable. Officials didn't elaborate Thursday, but Reindl said he "came through the rescue operation well."

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NATION

Cannabis, kids a complex combination

Changing pot laws prompt review of child-endangerment legal standards

By KRISTEN WYATT
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado man loses custody of his children after getting a medical marijuana card. The daughter of a Michigan couple growing legal medicinal pot is taken by child-protection authorities after an ex-husband says their plants endangered kids.

And police officers in New Jersey visit a home after a 9-year-old mentions his mother's hemp advocacy at school.

While the cases were eventually decided in favor of the parents, the incidents underscore a growing dilemma. While a pot plant in the basement may not bring criminal charges in many states, the same plant can become a piece of evidence in child custody or abuse cases.

"The legal standard is always the best interest of the children, and you can imagine how subjective that can get," said Jess Cochrane, who helped found Boston-based Family Law & Cannabis Alliance after finding child-abuse laws have been slow to catch up with pot policy.

No data exist to show how often pot use comes up in custody disputes, or how often child-welfare workers intervene in homes where marijuana is used.

But in dozens of interviews with lawyers and officials who work in Colorado, along with activists who



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Moriah Barnhart plays with her daughter Dahlia, 3, who has brain cancer, at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo. Barnhart, frustrated with mainstream medical treatments and facing the possibility of intervention by child protective authorities, moved to Colorado to treat Dahlia using what some describe as cutting-edge cannabis medication.

counsel parents on marijuana and child endangerment, the consensus is clear: Pot's growing acceptance is complicating the task of determining when kids are in danger.

A failed proposal in the Colorado Legislature this year showed the dilemma.

Colorado considers adult marijuana use legal, but pot is still treated like heroin and other Schedule I substances as they are under federal law. As a result, when it comes to defining a drug-endangered child, pot can't legally be in a home where children reside.

Two Democratic lawmakers

tried to update the law by saying that marijuana must also be shown to be a harm or risk to children to constitute abuse.

The effort led to angry opposition from both sides — pot-using parents who feared the law could still be used to take their children, and marijuana legalization opponents who argued that pot remains illegal under federal law and that its very presence in a home threatens kids.

After hours of emotional testimony, lawmakers abandoned the effort as too complicated. Among the teary-eyed moms at the hear-

ing was Moriah Barnhart, who moved to the Denver area from Tampa, Fla., in search of a cannabis-based treatment for her daughter who has brain cancer.

"We moved here across the country so we wouldn't be criminals. But all it takes is one neighbor not approving of what we're doing, one police officer who doesn't understand, and the law says I'm a child abuser," Barnhart said.

Supporters vow to try again to give law enforcement some definitions about when the presence of drugs could harm children, even if the kids don't use it.

"There are people who are very reckless with what they're doing, leaving marijuana brownies on the coffee table or doing hash oil extraction that might blow the place up. Too often with law enforcement, they're just looking at the legality of the behavior and not how it is affecting the children," said Jim Gerhardt, of the Colorado Drug Investigators Association, which supported the bill.

Child-endangerment standards remain murky in Colorado, with wide disparities in how local child-protection officers and law enforcement approach pot, said Rob Corry, a Denver lawyer who successfully argued the father's custody appeal.

Corry, who helped Colorado's 2012 campaign to legalize recreational marijuana, said the main thrust of the effort was to treat pot like alcohol.

"Think of brewing beer," Corry said. "You've got a constitutional right to do it. There's nothing wrong with it. Marijuana should be just as simple — you just keep it on a high shelf, right next to your vodka. But in practice, this is not how law enforcement treats marijuana."

The need for better standards about when marijuana endangers kids is growing by the day, said Maria Green, a Lansing, Mich., mother who lost custody of her infant daughter for three months last year.

Green grows pot to treat her husband's epilepsy, and though Michigan's medical marijuana law states parents shall not be denied custody or visitation with a child for following the statute, a legal dispute with her ex-husband led to her daughter being placed with a grandparent until it was resolved.



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THE NEW SANNO

NATION

Rodents winning New York City rat race

By VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ines Moore stirs awake nearly every night to an unmistakable, skin-crawling sound: rats skittering around her apartment in the dark.

Sticky traps scattered around the tidy, fifth-floor walkup yield as many as three rats a night, what she believes is just a fraction of the invading army that makes her feel under siege.

"I feel good in the United States — except for this. Here, in my home," said Moore, a Dominican immigrant who can't afford to leave her rent-controlled apartment in northern Manhattan's Washington Heights.

Her neighborhood is among the most rat-infested in New York City, along with West Harlem, Chinatown, the Lower East Side and the South Bronx. They are the focus of the city's latest effort to attack a rat population that some experts estimate could be double that of the Big Apple's 8.4 million people.

Starting next month, the city's 45 inspectors will be bolstered by nine new employees of a pilot program to tackle the vermin in chronically infested neighborhoods where rats have resisted

repeated efforts to eradicate them.

Specific targets are rat reservoirs such as parks, sewers, and subways dumping areas where they

‘As long as there are human beings in New York City, there will be rats, because they live off human garbage — that’s their No. 1 thing.’

The Rev. Joel Grassi
Baptist minister and professional exterminator

are all these tunnels under there that are occupied by rats. And from there the rats fan out."

Financed with \$611,000 in the

current city budget, inspectors will work with neighborhood associations, community boards, elected officials and building owners to plug up holes and put poison in rodent tunnels.

For years, inspectors responding to complaints on the city's 311 hotline have been searching for rats and their telltale signs: burrows, droppings, claw marks and gnawed holes. Besides traps and poison, the city also has used contraceptives to curb the rats.

New York's Rat Information Portal — or, appropriately, RIP — is an interactive online map that tracks Health Department violations, with searches by borough, address, block number and ZIP code. Spots marked red are deemed to be rat-infested; those in yellow have passed inspection.

The South Bronx around Yankee Stadium has the dubious distinction of being the city's most rat-infested neighborhood, according to figures from 2012, the most recent available. Inspectors gave a failing grade for infestation to at least 13 percent of more than 3,000 locations inspected in that area.

Washington Heights came in at 12 percent of inspected locations, West Harlem at 10 percent and



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

New York City is gearing up for its latest war on rats with an army of inspectors that will descend on the city's most rat-infested neighborhoods, targeting areas where rats congregate and breed.

the Lower East Side and adjacent Chinatown at nearly 9 percent.

Rats can carry and spread diseases, bite and trigger asthma attacks. In May, a 4-year-old boy died after ingesting rat poison in a Bronx homeless shelter.

It's impossible to tally the exact number of rats in New York, said the Rev. Joel Grassi, a Baptist minister and professional exterminator.

"As long as there are human beings in New York City, there will be rats, because they live off human garbage — that's their No.

1 thing," said Grassi, adding that the best way to manage the rat population is to eliminate their food supply.

"It's just part of everyday life," said Jasmine Guzman, a store manager whose two young sons happily run around their Washington Heights apartment across the hall from Moore's, after the family cleans up rat droppings.

"My 3-year-old son says, 'It's OK, Mommy, they're just looking for some stinky food,'" she said with a laugh.

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NATION



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Ihor Lakatosh uses a cloth tunnel during his therapy sessions at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston.

'I can live a life now'

Burned Ukrainian boy jubilant over ability to walk

By RODRIQUE NGWU
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Ihor Lakatosh struggles to describe his life before the surgeries, when his severe burns went untreated for years in his native Ukraine, leaving him with one arm fused to his body, unable to walk and abandoned by his mother.

The 11-year-old boy, however, smiles widely and repeatedly makes the sign of the cross when he describes how he feels now, after a series of surgeries and physical therapy at a Boston charity hospital. "Thank you, I can walk," he said recently through an interpreter. "Thank you, I can walk. Thank you, Lord, I can walk."

Ihor returned to Boston early this year for a second round of procedures, and has been spending time showing off his newfound ability to walk, take off his jacket and climb onto a bed.

No one knows the details surrounding the fire that burned 30 percent of Ihor's body when he was about 3 years old. He was severely malnourished and unable to walk or bend his arms when neighbors in Lviv, Ukraine, urged his mother to take him to a hospital in 2011, doctors said. She did, and never came back.

The hospital provided minor care but couldn't pay for extensive treatment of Ihor. Staff there thought he was mentally impaired and took him to a special orphanage for children with cerebral palsy.

The orphanage director contacted a Ukrainian burn phy-

sician, who got in touch with Boston-based anesthesiologist Dr. Gennadiy Fuzaylov and sent him a photo of the boy. Fuzaylov and plastic surgeon Dr. Daniel Driscoll run a nonprofit organization, Doctors Collaborating to Help Children, which works to improve medical care for children

cal therapy to straighten elbows, shoulders and ankles.

Physicians also struggled to figure out why the boy wasn't eating properly until they discovered 14 rotten teeth that they had to extract, Fuzaylov said. Doctors also determined that Ihor wasn't mentally impaired. All he simply had never been to school and was unable to hold a pencil. The fact that he had spent crucial formative years with mentally impaired children also undermined his development, doctors said.

Ihor was sent back to the orphanage in Ukraine after his first set of surgeries and will return there next month after this latest round of treatment.

The western Ukraine region where the orphanage is located has not been affected by the turmoil engulfing eastern parts of the former Soviet republic.

Occupational therapist Katherine Hartigan said she is impressed by Ihor's determination to fight through pain and frustration.

"Looking at him where he was two years ago and now, the really independent person he is, it's amazing. It's absolutely amazing," Hartigan said after a recent therapy session.

As for his future, Ihor remains up for adoption in Ukraine. But for now, he is focused on enjoying his new life in his improved body.

"I can do everything now," he said. "I can go to school ... I can go outside and play. I can eat by myself. I can go home and do my homework. I can go to bed by myself. I can do everything by myself. I can live a life now."

'Looking at him where he was two years ago and now, the really independent person he is, it's amazing. It's absolutely amazing.'

Katherine Hartigan
Ihor Lakatosh's occupational therapist

in various countries. Through the organization, they brought Ihor to Boston's Shriners Hospital for Children two years ago.

He was about 8 or 9 years old when he arrived and weighed less than 30 pounds, half the average weight for a boy his age.

"His initial surgery was done to bring his arm away from his body where it had completely scarred to his torso. That was a big one," Driscoll said.

Other operations gave Ihor the ability to bend his knees, and each was followed by extensive physi-



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bail set in robbery of 101-year-old vet

NV CARSON CITY — A 27-year-old man has been returned to Carson City to face charges in the home invasion robbery of a 101-year-old veteran and his caretaker over Memorial Day weekend.

Robbie Hernandez, of Carson City, was arrested in Sparks on an unrelated charge and later identified as a suspect. The Nevada Appeal reported he was booked into the Carson City Jail, and his bail was set at \$1.25 million.

Authorities said Hernandez and Jordan Burkhart, 24, of Wellington, forced their way into James Sorrentino's home looking for a safe, but Sorrentino doesn't have one. After ransacking the home, they fled with a wristwatch, pocketknife and wallet containing \$30.

The two are charged with conspiracy to commit burglary, home invasion, assault and crimes committed against someone over 60.

Sorrentino is a World War II Army Air Corps and Air Force veteran.

Toss of drug-filled ball into prison falls short

MI JACKSON — Michigan authorities said a man tried to throw a football loaded with drugs and cellphones into the yard of a state prison.

State Trooper Toby Baker said Sunday's throw in Jackson fell short, with the football landing between two fences, not in the yard where prisoners exercise.

An officer at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility saw the man throw the football, and officers arrested the suspect.

The Detroit Free Press and the Jackson Citizen-Patriot said the ball contained heroin, marijuana, tobacco, three cellphones and chargers.

Christen D. Moore, 22, was arraigned Tuesday in Jackson District Court on contraband charges and ordered jailed.

Mayor resigns over 'poopgate' incident

CA LOS ANGELES — The mayor of San Marino resigned Tuesday after a town uproar over his being caught on surveillance video tossing a small bag of dog poop into a neighbor's yard.

Dennis Kneier announced his resignation in a letter addressed to fellow City Council members, saying that the June 7 incident was "a lapse in judgment" and has caused embarrassment.

"I can understand why this matter has some questioning my ability to lead the council," he wrote.

The controversy arose after Kneier's neighbor, Philip Lao, discovered the small bag outside his home. He reviewed video from his home's surveillance cameras, which showed Kneier tossing the bag. Soon after the incident, the video, which Lao shared publicly, went viral.

Lao believed the mayor intentionally tossed the bag in retribution for putting a "No Poop Zone"

THE CENSUS

.289

— 3½ times more than the legal level in Pennsylvania — the girl has recovered. Police said they are still investigating the friend's possible involvement.

The blood-alcohol content percentage of a 13-month-old girl who was hospitalized after drinking from a sippy cup police say contained vodka. Police in Erie, Pa., charged Jessica Bachmaier, 26, with child endangerment and furnishing alcohol to a minor Tuesday. Bachmaier told police that she had put only water and baby formula in the sippy cup and that she believed a friend added the vodka. Despite suffering the high level of intoxication



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Perching pretty

Smithsonian exhibitions expert Richard Gould helps prepare Martha, the last surviving passenger pigeon — who was stuffed for posterity after her death in September 1914 — for her new exhibit at the Smithsonian's natural history museum in Washington. A new scientific study this week shows how pigeon populations fluctuated wildly but people ultimately killed off the species. Some geneticists are working on the long shot hope of reviving the passenger pigeon from leftover DNA in stuffed birds.

sign outside his home and publicly opposing a proposed dog park.

Police cite man for DUI checkpoint warning sign

OH CLEVELAND — A suburban Cleveland man says police violated his First Amendment rights of free speech when they cited him for holding a sign warning motorists to turn if they wanted to avoid a police DUI checkpoint.

Douglas Odolecki, 43, held a sign the night of June 13 in Parma that said: "Check point ahead! Turn now!"

He and his attorney are fighting the citation. Odolecki said police sometimes abuse their authority and he believes he's fighting for a just cause.

A Parma police spokesman said city attorneys previously determined the part of the sign telling motorists to turn is illegal.

It's not the first time Odolecki used the sign or got into trouble for it. Parma police arrested him

in September 2012 for having a knife in his pocket while holding the sign.

Make-A-Wish tour ends with hard helo landing

HI HONOLULU — An Illinois family of six making a Make-A-Wish trip to Maui is safe after a hard helicopter landing.

The Fraser family from Belleville, which includes four teenage daughters, was on a Sunshine Helicopters flight just before 10 a.m. Tuesday. The pilot lifted off from Kahului Airport for a tour of Wahee Valley.

Company owner Ross Scott said the helicopter experienced mechanical failure at 2,500 feet.

He said the pilot looked for a safe place to land and auto rotated, which means disengaging the engine from the main rotor system so the helicopter's rotor blades move just by the upward flow of air during descent. The helicopter landed in 8 feet of ele-

phant grass. Scott said that cushioned the landing.

Maui firefighters said no one onboard required medical attention.

Former porn star seeks school board seat

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A former porn star is looking for a new role as a school board member.

David Mech, 38, of Boca Raton, has qualified for the Palm Beach County School Board's District 3 seat.

Mech was known as Dave Pounder while a performer in adult films. He began a math tutoring business a few years ago.

Along with another candidate, John Michael Hartman, Mech is challenging incumbent board member Karen Brill.

The Palm Beach Post reported that Brill made headlines earlier this year with a short-lived proposal to enforce a dress code for parents on school property.

Nuns sue strip club, say it's a nuisance

IL STONE PARK — Nuns living in suburban Chicago are suing a strip club next to their convent, saying they have to deal with drunkenness, litter and public violence.

The Sisters of St. Charles named Club Allure Chicago and the village of Stone Park in their lawsuit, claiming the club violates Illinois zoning laws. Those laws mandate 1,000 feet between adult entertainment facilities and schools and places of worship.

Sister Noemia Silva said the nuns "hear the music when they're praying" and they're fighting for the club to close. The sisters' property includes three chapels.

Stone Park Village Attorney Dean Krone said the village has acted legally and reasonably. Club representatives said they aren't a nuisance to the nuns and the claims have no backing.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon's Bezos unveils Fire Phone

BY JAY GREENE
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Amazon.com Inc. unveiled the Fire Phone smartphone Wednesday, featuring a way to differentiate the device from rivals with technology that identifies book covers, labels and barcodes to make shopping easier.

“Can we build a better phone for our most engaged customers? Can we build a better phone for our Amazon Prime member?” Amazon Chief Executive Jeff

Bezos asked at the device's launch in Seattle. "I'm excited to tell you the answer is yes."

The phone is Amazon's latest bid to more deeply control the devices that run the content it sells. The company first jumped into the device business in 2007, when it debuted its Kindle e-reader. Since then, it has launched the Kindle Fire tablet line and, in April, the Fire TV set-top box.

The Fire Phone, which sports a 4.7-inch screen, will have 2 gigabytes of RAM, a 2.2-gigahertz

quad-core processor and a 13-megapixel camera.

The phone also features Firefly, Amazon's new technology to facilitate easier shopping. Customers can use the camera to tap into servers to find data about items in front of them. Firefly can also use the phone's microphone to determine the name of a song playing nearby or a program on a TV.

With that information, Amazon can offer consumers the ability to buy those items or just learn more about them from the Web.

Bezos is so keen on Firefly that Amazon has included a dedicated Firefly button on the Fire Phone to make it easy for customers to use.

"Firefly is so easy to access. Customers are going to love this," Bezos said.

The device also comes with a feature called "dynamic perspective," which lets users tilt the phone to navigate websites, fly through items on Amazon's shopping site, and dig out new information from a map application.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.923	\$4.090	\$4.253	\$4.119
Change in price	+1.2 cents	+0.9 cents	+0.8 cents	-1.0 cent
Netherlands	--	\$4.968	\$5.257	\$5.012
Change in price	--	+8.4 cents	+7.9 cents	+8.8 cents
U.K.	--	\$4.084	\$4.218	\$4.084
Change in price	--	+8.0 cents	+0.8 cents	+1.0 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.209	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.8 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$4.084	\$4.318	\$4.215
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.647	\$4.969*
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Italy	\$4.050	--	--	\$4.239
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.83	--	\$3.869
Change in price		no change	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.669	--	--	\$3.869
Change in price	no change	--	--	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.129	--	\$4.139	\$4.009
Change in price	-12.0 cents	--	-12.0 cents	-14.0 cents
Guam	\$3.799**	\$3.969	\$4.129	--
Change in price	-12.0 cents	-12.0 cents	-13.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of June 21-27

MARKET WATCH

June 18, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	+98.13 16,906.62
Nasdaq composite	+25.60 4,362.84
Standard & Poor's 500	+14.99 1,956.98
Russell 2000	+6.51 1,046.41

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 20).....	\$1.3916
Dollar buys (June 20)	€0.7186
British pound (June 20)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 20)	99.00
South Korean won (June 20)	993.00

Commercial rates

British pound (£)	\$1.7038/0.5869
Canada (Dollar)	1.0824
China (Yuan)	6.2292
Denmark (Krone)	5.4696
Egypt (Pound)	7.1527
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3633/0.7335
Hungary (Forint)	7.7504
Israel (Shekel)	223.52
Japan (Yen)	3.4442
Kuwait (Dinar)	101.83
Norway (Krone)	0.2819
Philippines (Peso)	6.1025
Poland (Zloty)	43.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.03
Singapore (Dollar)	3.7508
South Korea (Won)	1.2481
South Korea (Won)	1,018.87
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8922
Thailand (Baht)	32.47

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.04
20-year bond	3.40

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

Friday's US temperatures

Abilene, Tex.	90	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga,Ga.	68	PCldy	Fort Wayne	84	67	Rain	Louisville	89	75	Rain	Pocatello	85	45	PCldy	Sioux City	88	64	Chl	
Albany, N.Y.	90	73	Cldy	Cheyenne	80	47	Cir	Fresno	88	65	Cir	Lubbock	88	68	Cldy	Portland,Maine	77	52	Cir	Sioux Falls	86	62	Cir	
Albuquerque	92	63	Cldy	Chicago	84	69	Rain	Galveston	89	74	Cir	Madison	82	67	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	79	58	PCldy	South Bend	83	69	Rain	
Albany, N.Y.	91	78	52	Cir	Cincinnati	87	70	Cldy	Grand Junction	77	51	Cir	Madison	82	67	PCldy	Providence	79	58	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	88	71	Cir
Albuquerque	92	63	PCldy	Cleveland	80	64	Cldy	Grand Rapids	78	62	Rain	Meerford	80	64	PCldy	Pueblo	91	56	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	88	71	Cir	
Albuquerque	92	63	PCldy	Columbia Springs, Pa.	90	72	Cldy	Green Bay	76	58	Rain	Midland	85	70	PCldy	Reno	81	52	Cir	St. Louis	89	73	Cir	
Annapolis	90	64	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	98	72	PCldy	Green Bay	76	58	Rain	Miami Beach	85	75	Cldy	Repco	81	52	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	88	70	Cir	
Amarillo	92	64	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	95	75	PCldy	Greensboro, N.C.	90	69	Cldy	Midland-Odesa	89	73	Cldy	Reno	81	52	Cir	Tallahassee	86	70	Cir	
Annapolis	90	64	PCldy	Columbus, Ohio	90	72	PCldy	Harrisburg, Pa.	89	68	PCldy	Midland	85	70	PCldy	Reno	81	52	Cir	Tallahassee	86	70	Cir	
Atlanta	93	74	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	78	48	Cir	Hartford Spgflg	79	55	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	86	65	PCldy	Roanoke	85	70	Cir	Tampa	90	63	Cir	
Atlantic City	83	61	PCldy	Corpus Christi	83	78	Cir	Helena	82	50	PCldy	Missoula	82	66	PCldy	Rochester	75	55	Cir	Toledo	89	69	Cir	
Baltimore	86	66	PCldy	Dayton	85	69	Cir	Houston	82	50	PCldy	Mobile	82	66	PCldy	Rochester	75	55	Cir	Toledo	89	69	Cir	
Baltimore	86	66	PCldy	Dayton	85	69	Cir	Houston	82	50	PCldy	Montgomery	94	73	PCldy	Sacramento	88	57	Cir	Tulsa	83	69	71	
Birmingham	91	72	PCldy	Daytona Beach	85	62	PCldy	Indianapolis	86	71	Rain	New Orleans	90	75	PCldy	St. Petersburg	89	76	Cldy	Tulsa	83	69	71	
Billings	83	55	Cir	Denver	85	52	PCldy	Indianapolis	86	71	Rain	New Orleans	90	75	PCldy	St. Petersburg	89	76	Cldy	Tulsa	83	69	71	
Birmingham	91	72	PCldy	Des Moines	88	68	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	90	74	PCldy	New York City	82	63	Cir	St. Thomas	89	57	Cir	Waco	86	71	Cir	
Birmingham	91	72	PCldy	Des Moines	88	68	PCldy	Jacksonville	90	74	PCldy	New York City	82	63	Cir	St. Thomas	89	57	Cir	Waco	86	71	Cir	
Boise	89	55	Cir	Duluth	69	54	Cldy	Janeau	53	45	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	85	74	Cldy	Salt Lake City	88	50	Cir	Washington	86	71	Cir	
Boston	77	58	Cir	El Paso	96	74	PCldy	Kansas City	91	69	PCldy	Norfolk, Va.	85	74	Cldy	Salt Lake City	88	50	Cir	Washington	86	71	Cir	
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Burlington, Vt.	72	48	Cir	Evansville	90	73	Cldy	Lansing	76	60	Rain	Paduach	92	72	PCldy	San Jose	88	51	Cir	Wichita Falls	95	73	Cir	
Burlington, Vt.	72	48	Cir	Evansville																				

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Annapolis

Amarillo

Annapolis

Atlanta

Atlantic City

Baltimore

Baltimore

Birmingham

Billings

Birmingham

Boise

Boston

Boston

Brownsville

Brownsville

Burlington, Vt.

Burlington, Vt.

Casper

Charleston, S.C.

Charleston, W.Va.

Chicago

Chattanooga,Ga.

Cheyenne

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Columbia Springs, Pa.

Columbia, S.C.

Columbus, Ga.

Columbus, Ohio

Concord, N.H.

Corpus Christi

Dayton

Daytona Beach

Denver

Des Moines

Duluth

El Paso

El Paso

Erie

Erie

Evansville

Fairbanks

Fargo

Flagstaff

Flint

Fort Smith

Fort Wayne

Fresno

Galveston

Grand Junction

Grand Rapids

Green Bay

Green Bay

Greensboro, N.C.

Harrisburg, Pa.

Hartford Spgflg

Helena

Houston

Houston

Indianapolis

Jackson, Miss.

Jacksonville

Janeau

Kansas City

Kansas City

Kansas City

Key West

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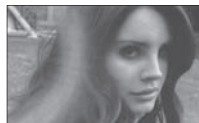
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National temperature extremes
 Hi: Wed., 104, Laredo, Texas
 Lo: Wed., 20, Silver Lake, Utah

WEEKEND



Lana Del Rey
Page 37



Hill and Tatum reunite in brom-com '22 Jump Street'

Page 24

Luxury, history

Some call this lakeside hotel in Gargnano, Italy, the world's best

Quick Trips, Page 28



Go for the Full Monty

British pub in Yokohama has authentic ales, full breakfast

After Hours, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/AP

Characters from the "How to Train Your Dragon" movies such as Astrid, voiced by America Ferrera, also appear in comic books.

'Dragon Down' a comic companion to the movie

By Andrew A. Smith
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

If you're still itching for more even after seeing "How to Train Your Dragon 2," which is now in theaters, you'll be pleased to know there's already a comic-book adventure out.

English publisher Titan Comics has launched a new series chronicling the adventures of Hiccup, Toothless and the rest, in the digest size (9 x 6.5 inches) popular among children's graphic novels. "Dreamworks' Dragons: Riders of Berk — Dragon Down" (\$6.99) is already out.

Written by Simon Furman, the story involves Hookfang the dragon shedding scales in spring — red-hot scales that set fire to the wooden tufts of the Viking village Berk (presumably short for "berserk," a word coined for certain Viking warriors). Stoick the Vest, Berk's leader and Hiccup's father, exiles the un-

fortunate dragon — much to the distress of its rider, Snotlout.

What follows is a timeless tale of friendship and sacrifice, wherein our heroes learn that the latter is a necessary part of the former. It's a great message, but one inserted so painlessly into a rousing adventure tale that it's a fun read for adults and children alike.

"Dragon Down" is illustrated by Iwan Nazif, who eschews the animated-puppet style of the movie for a more traditional form of cartooning. Yet the familiar faces and postures are captured so well that you half expect the familiar voices (Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, Craig Ferguson, America Ferrera, Jonah Hill, Kristen Wiig, etc.) to come out from their mouths.

At least three more books in the "Dreamworks' Dragons: Riders of Berk" series are planned, including "Dangers of the Deep" (Aug. 26), and unnamed volumes 3 (Nov. 18) and 4 (Feb. 24, 2015). Titan also has two "art of" coffee-table books for the two movies, all joining a cottage industry of "How to Train Your Dragon" videos and books, although the latter are mostly aimed at the preschool set.

For more information, go to titanbooks.com



ON THE COVER: Jonah Hill, left, and Channing Tatum pull out their guns once again for the sequel "22 Jump Street."

Columbia Pictures-Sony

GADGET WATCH

Blumoo turns phone into remote control

By Gregg Ellman
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Blumoo, from Flyover Innovations, is a device that works with its own app to let you eliminate the pile of remotes used for infrared-controlled home entertainment devices.

I figured the setup would take some time, so I sat down with the device, instructions, my laptop, iPad and a nice big glass of ice tea.

Soon, I was controlling my TV, Apple TV and even brushed the dust off my CD player.

Before starting, you must figure out a place for the Blumoo hardware, a 2.75-inch-tall device that looks like a mini coffee cup from the side. It's built with an angled base enabling it to receive a signal from almost anywhere in the room and is paired with your handheld device via Bluetooth.

The setup guide walks you through what to plug in, including RCA cables for audio and of course the included power supply.

The Blumoo app (free) is available for iOS and Android devices. Once the hardware is set up, the app has an endless database of devices (more than 200,000) you can control. There, you'll find yours to make the connection.

Within the app you'll have a virtual screen, which is now your remote, to select a device, change the channel, volume control and a channel guide.

The app remembers what you watch and sends reminders when favorite shows or even favorite teams are back on TV.

Online: flyoverinnovations.com; \$129.99

The Grill Daddy 6-in-1 stainless steel grill kit is the perfect summer gadget, even include electronics.

The ergonomically designed heat-shielding handle has a swinging metal shield to protect your hand from the hot grill or splattering food. You can reach anywhere on the grill and the shield, weighted and balanced, pivots to always be between your hand and the grill.

In addition to the handle, by far the main attraction, you get a spatula, fork and spoon along with collapsing tongs and a carrying case.

Everything is interchangeable, enabling grill or from tin combinations such as a tong/fork or a spatula/spoon or just use each tool as needed.

Online: buygrilldaddy.com; \$39.99

The Grill Daddy 6-in-1 is a stainless steel grill kit ready to grill anywhere you do.

GRILL DADDY MGMT



FLYOVER INNOVATIONS/MCT

Blumoo is a universal home entertainment accessory, providing users seamless control of audio and visual equipment already in the home.

The Tegware Bagel for the iPhone 5/5s from Wire Factory, a startup from San Francisco, has caught my attention.

The case, the first product from this new company, is a design I've never seen until now.

In addition to holding your phone securely on the right side of the synthetic leather folding case, the left side has a 4.2-inch (diagonal) Boogie Board eWriter for taking paperless notes, reminders, memos or just doodling. The eWriter doesn't connect to the phone, so there's no battery drain.

It runs on its own battery, good for five years. Inside the case you'll find a stylus stored in the eWriter and your phone.

Online: amazon.com; \$59, available in black; colors available soon include brown, blue, coral pink and red; more information at tegware.com

Sparkbeats from BiteMyApple takes light from the iPhone's (5/5s) LED flash and bends it through a channel built into the back of the case.

There's an on/off switch to control the lights. They can be programmed for different alerts or environments with the Sparkbeat app (free in iTunes). It can even flash to the beat of a selected tune.

The case is a recent successful Kickstarter project and essentially makes the light a silent ringtone.

Online: bitemyapple.co; \$49.99



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for June 18:

1. "Ultraviolence," Lana Del Rey
2. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe Version), Sam Smith
3. "The Hunting Party," Linkin Park
4. "while i <2>," deadmau5
5. "x" (Deluxe Edition), Ed Sheeran
6. "A Town Called Paradise" (Deluxe), Tiesto
7. "Mali Is ...," Mali Music
8. "In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith
9. "A.K.A." (Deluxe Version), Jennifer Lopez
10. "Mulaney" (Bonus Track Version), David Gray

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 9-15:

1. "Iggy Azalea," "Fancy"
2. "Ariana Grande," "Problem"
3. "Cody Harris," "Summer"
4. "MAGIC!", "Ride"
5. "Jason Derulo," "Wiggle (feat. Snoop Dogg)"
6. "Nico & Vinz," "Am I Wrong"
7. "Disclosure," "Latch"
8. "MKTO," "Classic"
9. "DJ Snake & Lil Jon," "Turn Down for What"
10. "Ed Sheeran," "Sing"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for June 18:

1. "The Lego Movie"
2. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
3. "Non-Stop"
4. "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"
5. "Lone Survivor"
6. "21 Jump Street"
7. "The Machine"
8. "RoboCop"
9. "Frocer"
10. "How to Train Your Dragon"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the top 10 downloadable games for June:

1. "Transistor," PS4, PC
2. "Super Time Force," Xbox One, PS3, PC
3. "Child of Light," PS4, Xbox One, Wii U, PS3, 360, PC
4. "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 3 — In Harm's Way," PS3, 360, PC
5. "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," PS3, 360
6. "Trials Fusion," PS4, Xbox One, PC
7. "SteamWorld Dig," PS4, PC
8. "Titanfall: Expedition," Xbox One, 360, PC
9. "Luftrausers," PS3, Vita, PC
10. "Towerfall Ascension," PS4, PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for June 18:

- ANDROID
1. Hitman GO
 2. Worms 3
 3. VVVVVV
 4. F — PA/CM11 Theme
 5. Dragon Quest VIII
- Top 5 paid iPhone apps for June 18:
- APPLE
1. Afterlight
 2. Garmin viago
 3. Heads Up!
 4. Minecra — Pocket Edition
 5. Sleep Cycle alarm clock

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



HBO

1

Last shot at a new 'Game of Thrones' episode for awhile

The fourth season of "Game of Thrones" concludes June 21 on AFN with the episode "The Children." As the show's legion of followers can attest, you never know what might happen — and, more often than not, who might die. The TV show's producers have taken a few liberties here and there with the story based on George R.R. Martin's books, so even those well versed in the comings and goings in Westeros don't know quite what to expect. (The episode aired stateside last week, so if you're unspoiled and wish to remain so, don't do any Googling that you might regret.) Don't miss this season finale, which heavily involves fan favorites Daenerys, Bran and Tyrion (at left), among others.

- More about 'Game of Thrones' on Page 39.
- Watch the season 4 finale Saturday on AFN-Spectrum.

2

Del Rey still generating ire, adoration

Lana Del Rey. What does one say about Lana Del Rey? One thing's for sure — she's sticking around. The polarizing pop star has a new album out, and it's a mixed message, as you might gather from its title, "Ultraviolence." The artist, and her works, are hard to describe — and yet strangely compelling.

- Review on Page 37.



3

Feed your e-reader for free

If you're someone who enjoys finding a bargain — that's all of us, right? — head immediately to **Bookbub.com**. Founded in 2012, BookBub is a free service that catalogs great deals on e-books, which means you will find free and heavily discounted choices that can be downloaded from sites such as iTunes, Amazon.com, Google Play and Barnes & Noble.

After registering, you specify your preferences. You'll then receive immediate book recommendations, as well as a daily email with deals on titles matching your interests. If none of the suggestions appeal, you can browse through available e-books by category. But do it soon — some of the deals have expiration dates.

4

Sail on 'The Last Ship'



Science fiction and the Navy collide on the TV series "The Last Ship," in which a naval destroyer is adrift in a world mostly wiped out by a deadly virus. Eric Dane (left) plays the commanding officer. "Transformers" director Michael Bay is an executive producer here, so explosive special effects are likely.

- 'The Last Ship' premiere airs June 23 on AFN-Prime.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Tatum and Hill: The bromance continues

Stars of '22 Jump Street' talk partnership in parody

By JAKE COYLE

The Associated Press



The comic duo of Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill began with an intentionally bad idea.

Hill called up Tatum: "So I have this probably terrible idea, but I want to see if you're interested," he said. Adapting the 1980s TV show "21 Jump Street" was the pitch, and Tatum couldn't resist Hill's anti-sell.

The movie, a send-up of TV show adaptations while at the same time being one, was a hit. Now, Hill and Tatum are back with "22 Jump Street," directed (like the first) by Phil Lord and Chris Miller, the maestros of turning shallow conceits

("The Lego Movie") into self-reflexive satire.

Beginning with a "previously on" clip reel and ending with a slew of mock sequel teasers, "22 Jump Street" again showcases Tatum and Hill's rapport in a self-aware comedy that sends up sequel-making and dissolves into such absurdity that, one point, it literally turns into "The Benny Hill Show."

In a recent interview, Hill and Tatum

reflected on their partnership in parody.

Did you know early on how good your chemistry together was?

Hill: I think we got lucky. We knew we would get along, but also the way we interact is luckily funny. It makes us laugh. I think it makes other people enjoy watching us hang out. When we're on set and we're hanging out and laughing, I can see people smiling.

Tatum: I definitely went into this, more than most films, with zero, zero ego. I was very insecure about trying to go do a comedy. I was just sort of like: "Tell me what to do."

You guys might seem quite different, but you overlap in many ways. You have director Bennett Miller in common (Hill received his first Oscar nomination for Miller's "Moneyball," while Tatum stars in the upcoming "Foxcatcher"), and you both have terrible things done to you in "This Is the End."

Tatum: It was like 2 in the morning — they must have still been shooting — and I hear my email go off. I pick up my phone for whatever reason. I never do this. I don't email with Seth (Rogen), but it's Seth and he's like, "Don't be mad at me. We're sitting here and we have a crazy idea for a cameo for you that involves you, Danny McBride, a retractable dog leash and a Mexican wrestling mask." And I was like, "I'm in."

In the time you've been making the "Jump Street" movies, your careers have both exploded.

Tatum: When (Hill) got nominated (for "The Wolf of Wall Street"), it was so insanely ... I felt like I got nominated. I'm not even kidding. It was one of those, like, "YES!"

Hill: I had a very similar experience with Cannes. I was in my bed at home and I got an email with the first "Foxcatcher" review from Cannes. It was like 6 or 7 a.m. in Los Angeles. And I knew what that meant for the road they're about to go on. I was screaming and I called him (Tatum) and Bennett. Neither of them picked up. They screened my calls.

How did the end credits sequence of fake "Jump Street" sequels come about?

Hill: We were screening the movie and it was testing really well and the audience was responding really well to it. We were sitting around going, "The movie plays great. I wish there was one more thing to send people off with a great feeling." One last jab at ourselves, too. One more: "We suck."

Channing Tatum, left, and Jonah Hill star in the action comedy "22 Jump Street."

Victoria Will, iVision/AP

'Jump' for joy: Here's a hilarious sequel

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

You're pretty much going to have to see "22 Jump Street" twice — just to catch all the jokes the stars of laughter make you miss.

No kidding, when this buddy cop parody hits its sweet spots — bromance gags carried to hilarious extremes by Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, too-dumb-to-be-a-cop riffs by Tatum and a couple of vintage, sneering rants by Ice Cube — "22," the sequel to "21," only "exactly the same" as the first film (a running gag), becomes a "see it again on Netflix when I can hear it all" experience.

This comedy produces the biggest, loudest laughs of any movie this summer.

Undercover cops Jenko (Tatum) and Schmidt (Hill) are sent off to M.C. State University to track down a new designer drug that college kids are using

New on base

"22 Jump Street" is at:

Europe
MillsHall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano and Vicenza.

Pacific
Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: 22jumpstreetmovie.com

to help them focus.

They try to blend in by doing slam poetry, by pledging a frat, hitting parties and asking around about the drug and this coed who died because of something she knew about it.

But they're not fooling anybody. "He's like a 30-year-old eighth-grader!"

The filmmakers and the cast mock the idea of a sequel and get away with doing exactly what they're mocking, even if it's always worse the second time around.

Ice Cube, making the most of just a few scenes as Captain Dickson, lands more laughs with a scowl or three than he has in his last five pictures.

Hill scores with an epic girl-fight and a blast of slam poetry. Tatum is comically coniving as a walk-on superstar tight end for the football team, and a parkour-loving jock who climbs walls and finds a new BFF in an Owen Wilson-look-alike quarterback (Wyatt Russell).

A pack of credited writers, and the co-directors of the first film, those "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" guys Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, conjure up good, quick-footed and foul-



GLEN WILSON, SONY PICTURES/AP

Jonah Hill, left, and Channing Tatum, return as undercover officers who go back to school in the buddy cop sequel "22 Jump Street."

mouthed fun. It goes on way too long, peaks too early and sputters before rallying with a frothy finale and a closing credits gag that kills, but also goes on too long.

That doesn't much matter. Hill and Tatum are the unluckiest of big-screen odd couples, a happy-goofy one that seems headed for a long and fruitful relationship

— homoerotic or not.

And you're still getting to need to see this one twice to get all the sight gags, punchlines and pratfalls that this "exactly the same" sequel serves up.

"22 Jump Street" is rated R for language throughout, sexual content, drug material, brief nudity and some violence. Running time: 112 minutes.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Jay Baruchel
VIRGINIA MAYO/AP



DEANWORKS ANIMATION/AP

"How To Train Your Dragon 2" revolves around Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel), the shy but intelligent teenage son of a Viking chief.

'How to Train Your Dragon 2' a high-soaring, 3-D adventure

By STEPHANIE MERRY
The Washington Post

There is an unbearably adorable moment at the start of any 3-D children's movie when the first frames hit the screen and the little ones in the audience let out a collective "woooooow" as they reach up to touch the images coming at them. This is, for better or worse, the highlight of some 3-D fare. But in "How to Train Your Dragon 2," that moment is really just an auspicious beginning for a riveting, moving and beautifully animated film.

It's understandable if you approach this sequel with some resignation. You'll take the kids to see it because it's the only option, and the fact that writer-director Dean DeBlois already has plans for a third and possibly fourth installment isn't necessarily heartening — another franchise proving the law of diminishing returns, you might mutter. But the follow-up to the 2010 blockbuster, based on books by Cressida Cowell about a dragon rider and his beloved pet, shows sequel-makers how to do it right.

The movie begins five years after the last one ended. The Celtic island of Berk has become a safe haven and breeding ground for dragons; there's even a basketball-like sport involving dragon riders using sheep to score points. (PETA might not entirely approve of this particular scene, animated or not.)

But while the whole island watches the tourney, self-appointed cartographer Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel) and his pet night fury, Toothless, are exploring far-flung destinations.

On one of these adventures, the beanie-clole of a young man stumbles upon an island made of spiky ice that's home to some unsavory characters. They're dragon hunters led by Snot (Kit Harington), and they spend their days rounding up fire-breathers for a mysterious overlord named Drago, who clearly has sinister intentions. There's hope for taking on Drago, though. Hiccup joins forces with a masked dragon rider whose identity won't be revealed here, except to say that she's voiced by Gemma Armonday and has a real dream job: She's the zookeeper of a massive dragon sanctuary.

"How to Train Your Dragon 2" is brimming with action while remaining mercifully straightforward. The undoing of many a sequel lies in its insistence on

New on base

"How to Train Your Dragon 2" is playing at:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella and Vicenza.

Pacific

Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: howtotrainyourdragon.com

introducing multiple enemies to up the ante. There's none of that. Meanwhile, the movie manages to tackle themes of growing up and finding independence; coming to terms with one's heritage; forgiveness; and how to properly care for a pet.

"How to Train Your Dragon 2" is rated PG for adventure action and some mild rude humor. Running time: 102 minutes.

All about a hero

Jay Baruchel lets his inner Canadian out with 'How to Train Your Dragon 2'

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Canadians are easy to spot in Florida. Guys like Jay Baruchel don't have to open their mouths and drop an "about" or "I've never BEAN here before" to give away the game. They're pink.

"I'm like a Jane Austen character," the skinny, big-screen funnyman admits. "I need a parasol when I'm down here."

The 32-year-old Ottawa native has made his mark in indie films ("Fanboys," "I'm Reed Fish") and as a part of the ensemble of some of the biggest comedy hits in recent film history — "Tropic Thunder," "Knocked Up," "This Is the End." But the one part he truly owns is Hiccup, the hero of the "How to Train Your Dragon" movies, an animated character who is "the Jay Baruchel of the Viking World," Christine Champ noted at film.com. The character has Baruchel's "angsty sarcasm," his distinct, high-pitched voice, and his speaking style, which Time Out London compared to "the beguiling delivery of a young Christian Slater."

In "How to Train Your Dragon 2," Hiccup becomes downright — dare we say it? — Canadian.

"He's a peacemaker," Baruchel says of Hiccup, based on the hero of Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" books. "He wants reconciliation, across the board. He IS Canadian. In a way, He's a great moderator. He wants cooler heads to prevail, and he knows we're better off if we can all find a way to get along."

Baruchel revels in talking about the "Dragon" movies — the new "Dragon 2" and "Dragon 3," which is already in the planning stages. He bought into the franchise right away because of the character, who "represents people who are

earnest in their beliefs, and who refuse to accept things the way they are. Just because this is how things have been doesn't mean this is how they have to be or will be forever and ever."

He connects Hiccup, a quirky tinkerer, blacksmith's apprentice and dragon-loving dreamer amongst the pillager Vikings of his family and village, to his own life.

"Hiccup is a great emblem for anyone who is wired differently. He's still all Viking, even though he's the least Viking of them all. So he's loyal. But I had a dad whose sole ambition for me was that I play hockey and live exactly the same life that he did. And that was never going to be an option."

... There's a lot of kids out there who face that ... Hiccup tells these kids that the things you've been told are failings can actually be virtues, and will be, if you give them time."

A Canadian child actor summoned to Hollywood by director Cameron Crowe for a role in "Almost Famous," Baruchel picked up on how he sounded — slightly nasal-voiced — and looked different from the standard issue movie stars or even character actors of his generation.

"They'd say 'You've got such a distinct voice!' And I was never sure who to take that. Maybe because they'd IMITATE me when they said it. But it's just another thing I'd have thought was a failing that has become a virtue."

And the beanie-clole appearance might make him a great foil for his beefier Canadian pal Seth Rogen, and a natural to star in a movie titled "She's Out of My League." But it can be limiting.

"I know. I KNOW. I've tried. I am working enough to eat. I swear. At some point, I'll just say 'tapeworm' and leave it at that. I weighed myself two days ago. I got up to 157. I was so proud, a new record!"

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THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2014

In Digital 3D: Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13): Sat 13:30, Sun 13:30

In Digital 3D: Maleficent (PG): Thu 20:30, Fri 19:00, Sat 15:45, Sun 15:45

In 2D: Maleficent (PG): Thu 16:00, 20:30, Fri 19:00, 20:45, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 19:00, 20:45, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 19:00, 20:45, Mon-Wed 19:00, 20:45

In 2D: X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13): Thu 16:00, 20:30, Fri 15:45, 17:30, 20:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 17:30, 20:00, Mon-Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:30

The Fault in Our Stars (PG-13): Thu 20:30, Fri 15:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 15:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 15:30, 20:00, Mon-Wed 16:00, 20:30

In 2D: Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13): Thu 20:30, Fri 15:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 15:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 15:30, 20:00, Mon-Wed 16:00, 20:30

Transformers: Age of Extinction starts at Fri June 27. The sale has been postponed.

Also showing: The Amazing Spiderman: Rise of Electro, Godzilla

Scan Here or visit: www.broadwaykino.com/mmc

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

When he gets caught up in a burglary, Det. Ronan O'Connor's life is brought to an untimely end by a brutal and relentless killer. In order to escape from the limbo world of Dusk, he must track down his killer and bring him to justice in "Murdered: Soul Suspect."

Photos courtesy of Square Enix

Over his dead body

Detective stops at nothing in quest to find killer in 'Murdered: Soul Suspect'

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Being dead definitely has its drawbacks. But it also has a few advantages in "Murdered: Soul Suspect."

The mystery game from Square Enix puts you in the shoes of Ronan O'Connor, a homicide detective in Salem, Mass. Within the first few minutes, you are thrown from a fourth-floor window and shot seven times with your own handgun. You are dead on the spot.

However, with a setting like the famous witch-hunt town of Salem, you have to suspect something supernatural will occur. And, sure enough, your spirit is up and investigating the scene of your own murder before your corpse is even cold.

You find out that you are trapped in a limbo world known as Dusk, where those with unfinished business are held until things can be set right. It seems that you need to find your killer before you can cross the bridge to eternity and join your deceased wife. And since your death occurred when you interrupted a suspected serial killer, there's a lot of investigating to do before you can make that trip.

Dusk is like an alternate dimension that overlaps the physical world. In addition to Salem's current buildings and residents, the otherworldly remains of previous structures and inhabitants fill the cityscape.

As a ghost, the spiritual portions of this world seem to have more substance than the material portions. In theory, you should be able to pass through all material objects but not the spiritual. In practice, you also can't pass through



exterior walls because most of Salem's buildings have been consecrated over the years. However, once you get inside, you can pass through all material objects.

While walking through walls is a cool trick, the flip side is that you can't pick up material objects to examine them. And you definitely can't talk to anyone unless they happen to have psychic abilities. This makes investigating a crime scene or interviewing witnesses a bit tricky. Fortunately, you meet a teenage medium named Joy who can help you out.

You quickly discover that you can do many unusual things in your ghostly state. In addition to passing through walls, you can teleport for short distances and possess the bodies of cats so you can climb to elevated areas blocked by obstacles.

Other abilities are very helpful when conducting an investigation. You can possess a living person to read their mind, see things through their eyes and even influence them to do something that will reveal a clue. For example, you can get someone to move a stack of papers to reveal evidence underneath. You can

also interact with the spiritual residue of previous events and get them to replay for you.

Conducting an investigation works in a way similar to other detective games, such as "L.A. Noire" and "Heavy Rain." A magnifying glass will appear over items or people that might have information. Then, you need to select the item or person and gather the corresponding clue. In some cases, you need to consider a collection of clues and determine their significance or relationship. This will usually unlock additional information.

After gathering all of the clues in an area, you need to determine their overall meaning and the next move in the case. Use of your investigative skills isn't confined to your own case. You'll meet a number of other ghosts trapped in Dusk and you can offer to help them. In most cases, you'll need to gather clues in the usual manner to reveal something about the nature of the ghost's death. If you're successful, the ghost will be enveloped in light and depart the scene on the way to a happier place.

However, some of the spiritual inhabitants of Dusk are more menacing than

Overall grade: **C+**

ghosts in need of assistance. Demons roam the realm looking for souls to devour. When you encounter these critters, you can jump into a wispy blob of residue left by another spirit and wait until it gets bored and moves off. But in most cases, you will need to eliminate the menace by sneaking up from behind and dispelling it.

These occasional encounters with demons offer the only real action in the game. Its primary focus is on the detective work. Fortunately, the investigations and the storyline are interesting.

Unfortunately, the game isn't very long. I played it for about eight hours, and I spent more than half of that time repeatedly retracing my steps to ensure that I had found every clue and collectible available. In addition, "Murdered" offers virtually no replay value. You are going to find most of the collectibles during the course of your investigations and the story isn't going to change on a second playthrough.

These issues, and the fact that many of Salem's inhabitants look very similar and say the same things over and over, make the game feel a bit shallow.

The graphics are somewhat disappointing. I suspect I would have been impressed on the Xbox 360, but the realism and detail seemed to be a bit lacking when compared to top games on the Xbox One.

The game earns its mature rating because of the disturbing nature of the crimes committed.

Bottom line: C+ "Murdered: Soul Suspect" is an enjoyable mystery game that ends much too quickly.

Platforms: Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, PC
Online: murdered.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



PATRICK B. KRAEMER, KEYSTONE/AP

Visitors watch an elephant bathing in a state-of-the-art elephant park that opened June 7 at Zoo Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland. After three years of construction, the Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park offers a spacious living area for the six elephants at the zoo, plus many showers and pools (elephants are excellent swimmers). Read more at zoo.ch/elephantpark

DO THIS:

Tour Oxford's garden

The University of Oxford Botanic Garden bills itself as the oldest botanical garden in Britain and the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world. Adult day passes cost 4.50 pounds (about \$6) and audio-tours are available. Guided tours for a minimum of 15 adults can be booked two weeks in advance. Daily tours at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. cost 9 pounds per adult; evening tours cost 13 pounds per adult. Tours can be on a topic of interest to the group, such as medicinal herbs, and led by a curator (for an extra fee).
Email: tickets@obg.ox.ac.uk
Call: (+44) (0)1865 286690
Web: www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk



Courtesy of the Oxford Botanic Garden

More than 5,000 plant species thrive at the Oxford Botanic Garden. Magdalen College's tower looms in the distance, above.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Free theater in London

If theater's your thing and free is your watchword, London is your place to be in the coming days.

The Greenwich Docklands Festival, opening Friday and running through June 28, offers 10 days of theater, dance and spectacle. Acts consist of street artists, musicians, magicians, actors and just about any other type of performer imaginable.

Deciding what not to miss is no easy task, but performances singled out on the event website include Muaré, aerialists performing to live music on revolving mobiles (Friday); "War Correspondents," showing the life-changing experiences of journalists against a musical backdrop (Friday through Sunday); "Deblozay," the summoning of spirits in a Haitian culture-inspired ceremony (Friday and Saturday); "Safe House," aerial performances and projections (Saturday); "The Legend of Hamba," a modern mystery play by African theater company Tiata Fahodzi (June 23-26); "Kadogo, Child Soldier," a play by Chilean company La Patriótica Interessante (June 23-27); and "Arka," a huge winged spect that sails off into a sea of pyrotechnics to the sound of Balkan



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Travel blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

wedding music (June 28).

The Greenwich Fair at the Old Royal Naval College and Cutty Sark Gardens runs Friday to Sunday and offers a similar program.

The festival sprawls across several locations between Royal Greenwich to Mile End Park and includes the areas of Woolwich, Canary Wharf and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Get the full program at festival.org

Trafalgar Square also will host open air theater this weekend, when the event known as West End Live celebrates its 10th year. The event showcases the quality and diversity of theatrical performances in the West End.

Audiences are treated to some

of the biggest names in musical theater performing songs from the productions in which they star. Stands set up in the square offer interactive activities from some of London's best-known cultural attractions.

Performances will include excerpts from "Wicked," "Billy Elliot the Musical," "Les Misérables," "Phantom of the Opera," "Miss Saigon," "Jersey Boys," "Mamma Mia!," "Thriller," "The Lion King," "Stomp" and many more plays and shows. Each performance lasts from 10 to 30 minutes.

Performances take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. No tickets are needed, but entry is restricted when the square reaches capacity. To learn more, visit westendlive.co.uk

Surf sounds in Italy

What exactly does surf music sound like? Find out this weekend in Livorno, Italy, as the Surfer Joe Summer Fest brings the sounds of Southern California to the shores of the Ligurian Sea.

Visitors to this festival fit for all ages will find new and established surf bands; exhibitions of old guitars, amps and instruments; a market for records and other merchandise;

movies and food and drink at the American-style Surfer Joe Diner. Those in the know will recognize performers such as Fifty Foot Combo, Slacktone, Paul Johnson and The Pyronauts. A host of other bands, mostly from Europe, take to the stage, too.

Events of interest include the Surfer Joe Guitar Rumble, an exhibition of a private collection of more than 100 Fender guitars, and demos of the art of tiki carving. New to this year's festival is a seminar on the basics of surf music, with demonstrations given by some of the fest's top performers. Surf guitar is highlighted Saturday at 5:30 p.m.; surf drumming is featured that same time Sunday.

This free festival takes place at Terrazza Mascagni, directly on the coast. There's no camping on premises, although there are plenty of camping areas and B&Bs in the area. Festival hours are Friday from 7 p.m. until midnight; Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. Sunday, and Sunday from noon until midnight.

Learn more at surferjoemusical.com

Worldwide Harley Ride

Here's an event taking place as close as your Harley-Davidson motorcycle is parked to your right now.

On Sunday and Monday, Harley owners are called upon to participate in World Ride 2014. Wherever they are across the globe, riders are urged to break free from the daily grind and celebrate the freedom found only on the open road.

According to information on the Harley-Davidson media website, the event was launched in 2008 as Million Mile Monday, and expanded to a two-day event in 2012. Last year's edition coincided with the 110th anniversary of the Harley brand and saw riders in 66 countries take to the road, collectively racking up more than 10 million miles.

Taking part in the 2014 event is as simple as registering and logging into the HD online mileage accumulator. Riders are encouraged to share stories and photos on social media sites by using the hashtag #Hdworldride.

Riders can download a certificate of participation after logging their miles. See how at ridefirst.harley-davidson.com/worldride/en-

What to do if you have no Harley? HD-authorized rentals are available at more than 350 locations around the world. To see how one can be yours, if only for a day, check out harley-davidson.com/content/h-d/en_US/home/tri-a-bike/rent-a-bike.html



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Of riches and revolution

Mussolini once lived at luxury hotel on Lake Garda

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Mussolini slept here. The fascist dictator also dined, dallied and did the bidding of his Nazi protectors here in Gargnano, Italy, near the end of World War II in a neo-Gothic villa on the shore of Lake Garda owned by the Feltrinelli, one of Italy's richest families.

Mussolini's end was gruesome: After he was captured by partisans near Lake Como and executed, his body was stoned and spat upon, then hung upside down on a meat hook, alongside that of his much-younger mistress, from the roof of an Esso gas station in Milan.

Only last week, a wardrobe that for years held the remains of the totalitarian leader who sought to make Italy a nationalistic, militaristic, antiegalitarian state, was put up for sale on eBay, starting at \$7,000.

The villa, on the other hand, lives on.

After the war, the house was reclaimed by the Feltrinelli family. Among them was Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, a publisher who rebelled against his upbringing and founded a group that advocated guerrilla activity on behalf of Italy's working class.

He hid out at the villa in 1970, when, according to villa history, he was an international fugitive. His death near Milan two years later was attributed to his accidentally triggering his own explosives during a mission to blow up power lines.

Now, the villa is a grand hotel — for the one percent and those who wish to live like them, if only briefly.

The hotel, painted terra cotta and gold, and its surrounding acres of perfectly manicured grounds and gardens, sit enclosed behind a gate and down a lushly forested drive. All towers, frescoes, marble, antiques, Michelin-starred cuisine, lake views, croquet, lemon trees, flowers and butterfies, it is inaccessible to anyone other than paying guests and the workers who outnumber them three to one.

The 21 rooms cost between nearly \$2,000 to nearly \$4,000 a night, with a two-night minimum stay.

Few guests are aware of the villa's interesting past, said staffer Alessia Michelletti, who graciously gave me a tour when I arrived



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

The Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli in Gargnano, Italy, faces Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake.



The wine: 3 euros. The chips and olives: free. The view of Lake Garda from the luxury hotel: priceless.

unexpectedly on a sunny May afternoon, following a guest driving a Lamborghini.

Opened in 2001 by famous hotelier Bob Burns, who served four years in the U.S. Army, the hotel does, however, provide a two-page villa history. There are two paragraphs about Mussolini's time there. "This was probably the unhappiest time in Mussolini's life as a political leader," ac-

cording to the history. "He was, in spite of the appearance, a prisoner. ... He was guarded by German officers and forced into a humiliating isolation."

Mussolini's stay began in October 1943, after he was deposed and arrested in Rome by Italian authorities, then freed by Nazi commandos, who spirited him north to front a shadow government in Salò.

By April 1945, Mussolini, who frequently posed shirtless for photographs and boasted of his unflagging libido, and whose 21-year rule of Italy brought it to the edge of ruin, was again on the run. He was shot to death on April 28, two days before Adolf Hitler killed himself and 10 days before the official end of World War II in Europe.

More than a hundred guests have written reviews of the hotel

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

ON THE QT

LOCATION

The Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli is located at 25084 Gargnano, Italy.

COSTS

Rooms start at nearly \$2,000 a night.

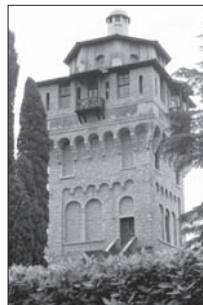
FOOD

Michelin-starred cuisine, served whenever and wherever guests desire.

INFORMATION

Phone: (+39) 0365-798000; website: villafeltrinelli.com

— Nancy Montgomery



Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini lived in the Villa Feltrinelli from 1943 to 1945, guarded by German officers and feeling humiliated, according to historical accounts. But he was still able to meet his young mistress for trysts in this tower a few miles away, according to a historical plaque.



NOGA ARI-ROD/Stars and Stripes



The hotel's salon is stunning with its set of 1920s butterfly prints.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

THE WAFFLE HOUSE

Address: 39 St. Giles Street, Norwich, England
Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Menu Belgian waffle combinations; gluten-free available. Beer, wine, cider and non-alcoholic drinks.

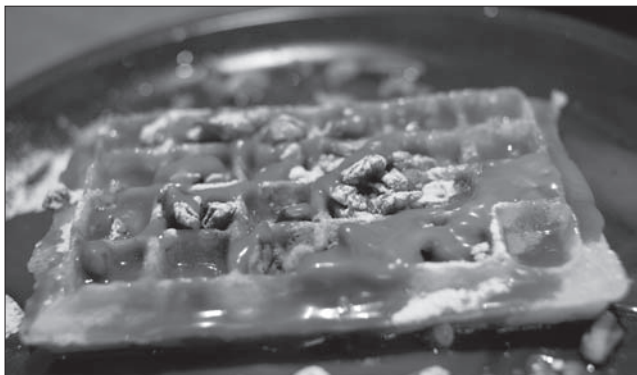
Dress: Casual.

Prices: Lunch and dinner entrees generally cost about 8 British pounds (about \$13).

More information:

Telephone: (+44) (0) 1603-612790; website: wafflehousenorwich.co.uk. The restaurant also has a Facebook page.

—Adam L. Mathis



PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

The pecan waffle with butternut sauce is one of several desserts offered by The Waffle House.

After Hours: England

BY ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

One restaurant in Norwich, England, has opened my mind to the possibility of waffles. Americans have largely, and sadly, confined waffles to breakfast, accompanied with fruit and/or syrup. Europeans are not so myopic, and embrace waffles as a medium for dessert. Another waffle with syrup and drop some ice cream on it, and you have a pub dessert. Or use the stiff square of carbohydrates as a vehicle for melted chocolate or other sweet accoutrements and buy one to carry out on the street and munch while sightseeing.

The Waffle House in Norwich has decided even that is too limiting, and no aspect of the dining experience should be without waffles. Meeting the promise of its name, it offers waffles in virtually every dish, from chicken teriyaki to chicken salad.

This somewhat imaginative idea is executed simply enough. My order of warm chicken salad was a pile of greens mixed with

bits of fig, toasted walnuts and gouda cheese, topped with long strips of chicken. All of this was plopped on top of a plain waffle. The waffle essentially became the croutons, providing the starchy counterpoint to the tangy lemon dressing and sweetness of the fig.

Simply slipping a waffle under food not usually associated with one unfortunately takes some of the glamour off the menu. The offerings of Oriental vegetable, cashew stir fry and Bolognese have great potential for creativity and fires the diner's imagination when it comes to how food can be combined with a waffle. It was a little disappointing that my waffle was simply an addition and not integrated into the meal. Why not add spices to the batter or cook the meat into the waffle?

But while The Waffle House might not have capitalized on its mainstay's creative potential, the waffle can bring a welcome nuance to entrees. My wife ordered one covered in cheese sauce and topped with ham and mushrooms. She pointed out that the waffle added a different texture



Chicken and greens sit atop a plain waffle, the signature of The Waffle House. The restaurant's novelty stems from including a waffle with most dishes, not changing the waffle to fit the dish.

to the meal and became less soggy than bread would have.

Lack of imagination does not diminish the quality of the desserts, which can be delicious, as my wife found out when she ordered the decadent chocolate mousse balanced by a plain waffle. My waffle with pecans and butternut sauce was more complex, with a mix of sweet and

bitter flavors.

The menu is available online for anyone planning a trip to Norwich. (The Waffle House also has a St. Albans location.) If the thought of Asian tuna salad with a bit of waffle padding sounds delicious to you, then the restaurant will be worth a trip.

mathis.adam@stripes.com
Twitter: @AMathisStripes

Flourless cookie is easy and delicious

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)
Chocolate. Easy. Fabulous. Gluten-free. Now get baking!

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE PECAN COOKIES

Ingredients:

2 cups dark chocolate chips (60 percent cocoa content or more), divided
3 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 cups sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
¾ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
3 eggs

4 tablespoons pecans, roughly chopped and toasted

Directions:

Put a saucepan filled with about 2 inches of water over medium heat and simmer. Place a stainless steel bowl on top of the water (making sure the bowl does not touch the water) and add 1½ cups chocolate chips. Stir to ensure the chips are completely melted before turning off heat. In a separate microwave-proof bowl, melt butter in microwave oven and stir into melted chocolate. Keep mixture warm over double boiler with heat turned off. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together sugar, cornstarch, baking powder and salt. Add eggs and whisk until fully incorporated and batter resembles pancake batter. Slowly whisk in melted chocolate-butter mixture (reheat if it has begun to solidify). Using a spatula, gently fold remaining ½ cup chocolate chips, as well as pecans, into the batter.

Cover batter tightly with plastic wrap. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees and line baking sheets with parchment paper. Using your hands or a scoop, break dough into pieces (about 2 tablespoons of batter is a good size). Roll dough into balls. Place balls at least 2 inches apart on baking sheets. Gently press the tops of the dough, forming it into a thick disk. Bake in the oven's middle rack until cookies are just beginning to crack on top but the dough is set on the edge and has a soft spot in the center (about the size of a quarter), about 8 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Remove from oven and allow cookies to cool on baking sheets until cookies further set, about 5 to 7 minutes. Serve warm, or carefully slide parchment paper onto a wire rack and cool cookies completely.

Makes about 16 to 20 cookies. From "Dominique Ansel: The Secret Recipes" (Simon & Schuster).



The waffle's texture holds up well to a topping of cheese sauce with ham and mushrooms. The dish is one of several savory lunch or dinner offerings on the menu.



The chocolate mousse waffle is a decadent and more traditional offering of The Waffle House.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Mont-St-Michel at dusk. The first church built on this small island off the French coast was constructed in 709. Later, an abbey church was built on the top of the rock and fortifications were added. Today it is one of France's top tourist attractions, with more than 3 million visitors a year.

Tourists, not pilgrims, now flock to Mont-St-Michel, the abbey built on rock

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

It rises nearly 500 feet out of the water and can be seen from miles away. It is perhaps, with the exception of the Eiffel Tower, France's most distinct tourist sight. It is the fortified medieval abbey of Mont-St-Michel.

Its beginnings are as fantastic as its appearance. As the story goes, the Archangel Michael had Aubert, the bishop of Avranches, build a chapel on an outcrop of rock off the French coast, then called Mont Tombe. Later, Benedictine monks settled the island at the request of the duke of Normandy.

The abbey church was built in the 11th century and from then until the 16th century, construction on the rock continued until it was a mightily fortified, magnificent abbey that never fell to an enemy.

Mont-St-Michel was for nearly 1,000 years a place of pilgrimage. Pilgrims flocked to the rock, taking horse-drawn carts across the causeway that linked it with the mainland at low tide, and wading or swimming to reach it when the tide was high.

Eventually, however, the importance and influence of the abbey declined, and Mont-St-Mi-



NASA AMNH/Stars and Stripes

chel was used as a prison during the French Revolution. In the late 19th century it was declared a historical monument, and since 1979, Mont-St-Michel, along with its bay, has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Instead of pilgrims, tourists now flock here. More than 3 million visitors a year make it almost Disneyland-like during the day. In the evenings things quiet down, making it a better time to visit.

The mighty doors to the abbey church shut an hour before it actually closes, so arrive early enough to visit (we, unfortunately, did not), before wandering through the narrow, cobblestone lanes that lead up, down and around the abbey. Nearby, the Musée Historique traces the history of the island throughout the centuries.

From the Tour du Nord (North Tower) there is a good view of



A look straight up the high walls of Mont-St-Michel's abbey church.

the abbey, the fortifications and the Bay of Mont-St-Michel. You can walk a good section of the ramparts, looking down into the courtyards and streets below.

Be sure to check out the 11th-century parish church of St. Pierre with its silver-clad statue of the Archangel Michael before having dinner at a restaurant in

Mont-St-Michel.

Finally, take the shuttle back toward the car park, getting off at the Place du Barrage stop. From the dam, watch as the sun sets over the bay as the lights come on at Mont-St-Michel, making an enchanting, ever-changing light show.

abrams.mike@stripes.com



A silver-clad statue of St. Michael stands in the 11th-century parish church of St. Pierre at Mont-St-Michel, or St. Michael's mount.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

KNOW & GO: MONT-ST-MICHEL

Getting there

Mont-St-Michel is off the French coast near where Normandy and Brittany meet.

If you are coming from the D-Day Beaches, take highway A84 (E3) south past Avranches, then

follow signs to Mont-St-Michel taking N175 toward Pontorson, then D43 and D75.

From the Brittany American Cemetery at St. James, take D30 to Pontorson, then D975 north to Mont-St-Michel.

GPS coordinates:

- Latitude: 48.635826
- Longitude: -1.510725

Times

The abbey is open daily except Jan. 1, May 1 and Dec. 25. Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 2 to Aug. 31 and 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 1 to April 30. Last admission an hour before closing.

Costs

Admission to the abbey is 9 euros for visitors older than 25,

5.50 euros for ages 18-25; for those under 18 and a citizen of the EU, admission is free.

A day of parking at the new lots on the mainland costs 12.30 euros. If you think you can make the visit in less than two hours, it will cost 6.20 euros to park. If you come for the sunset, parking is free from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The shuttle from the visitors center, where there are toilets and luggage lockers, to Mont-St-Michel is free.

More information

The Mont-St-Michel website is ot-montstnichel.com. Its tourism office is located inside the walls at the entrance to the village and is open all year except Christmas and New Year's Day.

If you visit Mont-St-Michel, plan to make a side trip to Brittany American Cemetery at St. James. See Stripes story at tinyurl.com/12pft4tz.

— Michael Abrams



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The village of Mont-St-Michel is a warren of narrow alleyways that mostly lead up to the abbey church.

Hotel Directory

GERMANY

Hotel Am See Kirchenhambacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situated on the shore of the Rüdweiher	Glutschouffel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 09645/602900 www.glutschouffel.de
City Hotel Pension Am Schoenberg 18 • 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de mail:city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390	Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de
Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barnacks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.	Hotel de France "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstrasse" Tel +49 (0)611-95 97 30 www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.
Wiesbaden Nordsee-Touristik Booking now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on Marriott.com via your Mil. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de	Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 06371952955 Fax: 06371952994 www.seewegpizzeria.de

Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaistr. 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de	Kaiserslautern area QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilenstrasse 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0931-42928	Mainz / Wiesbaden area Brennhaus Castele Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine "Unit Parties for up to 200 guests" Otto Söhn Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brennhaus-castele.de
Glutschouffel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel: 09645/60 29 00 www.glutschouffel.de	EFENDI Kebab Enjoy the taste of Turkey Riesenstrasse 18 67653 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/EFENDIKebab	PAPPELHAUS Steinerstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!
PALLAS Greek Specialties Untermer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel/Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62	Trattoria Da Salvatore Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-da-salvatore.com	Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808
EL GRECO This Way To Greece... Original Greek Cuisine Come as a guest, leave as a friend Tel: 0249 961 37279 Schölerplatz 9 92637 Weiden www.elgreco-weiden.de	Irish house KAISERSLAUTERN Eselsfuhr 11 (Just off the A6 down the way from Sembach) Open Daily Taxi Services Available Tel. 0631-40680 • www.irishhouse.de	Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admstall 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de
KB's Country & Western Saloon Berge, 4, 92229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00	China Restaurant City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßberger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking	SMOKETUBE Nassaustraße 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketubebbq.com
IMAM'S BAR Alte Amberger Str. 36 92655 Grafenwoehr	Minges The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in KWinn. Am Wernfriedstr. 5 • 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!	Café Temptation "reservations recommended" Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainerberg/XP area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de
Garmisch-Partenkirchen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Open Wed-Mon, Noon-11pm (Tues, Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08821-97496 www.ristorante-la-mama-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82667 Garmisch-Partenkirchen	Mainz / Wiesbaden area Saytouni Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 55183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110	Gabriel's Restaurant Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel's-restaurant.de
Kaiserslautern area Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 06371952955 Fax: 06371952994 www.seewegpizzeria.de	ENCHILADA - FUE MEXICO Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3, 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611-450483-0 wiesbaden.enchilada.de www.enchilada.de	Stuttgart Kashmir Authentic Indian Cuisine Eschwege Str. 11 Phone 0711-9976 38 16 Leinberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-90 32 32

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Fujikawaguchiko Town Sightseeing Bureau

DO THIS: See Mount Fuji and lavender

See more than 100,000 lavender plants at the foot of Mount Fuji at the Lake Kawaguchi Herb Festival at Yagizaki Park, Yamanashi prefecture, Japan. The event is now through July 13 and events include a gardening contest, music concerts, illuminations and fireworks. For more: tinyurl.com/6anbpg. Mount Fuji opens for the climbing season on July 1. At 12,388 feet, it's Japan's highest and most famous peak. To get there, buses take climbers to the fifth station, where it takes six hours to walk up and five down. Keio buses run from the west exit of Shinjuku Station in Tokyo at 6:40 a.m., 7:40, 8:40, 9:40 & 10:40 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:40, 3:30, 4:30, 5:50 & 7:30 p.m. For more: fujisan-climb.jp

OFF BASE: MOUNT FUJI

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Atsugi ITT Tours has a Fuji sightseeing tour 7 a.m. June 28. Climb Mount Fuji with a guide on July 20 and 26.

Yokosuka Tours has Mount Fuji sightseeing trips July 12 and 20; and family hiking and blueberry picking July 12 and 27. Outdoor Recreation Center (tinyurl.com/nngl5l5) has a mandatory Mount Fuji safety briefing, AOB/ICR Room, Community Readiness Center 5:30-6:30 p.m. June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Another Mount Fuji safety briefing is at Fleet theater 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. July 2, 9 and Aug. 6. Hike

Mount Fuji 1:45-10 p.m. on July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23. Overnight hikes are scheduled for July 21-22 and Aug. 24-25.

Make reservations for Camp Zama Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service's free orientation for Mount Fuji on June 24, July 8 and Aug. 5. Hike the base of Mount Fuji 5 a.m.-6 p.m. on June 28.

To see your events here: SSPEDTlibrary@stripes.com.



Stars and Stripes

It takes about six hours to climb Mount Fuji from the fifth station.



AP

ON THE WISH LIST: Tanabata Star Festival

People walk beneath decorations at the Tanabata Star Festival in Hiratsuka near Tokyo last year. According to legend, deities Orihime (Vega) and her lover Hikoboshi (Altair), separated by the Milky Way, are allowed to meet once a year on July 7. In Japan, people celebrate the festival by writing wishes on strips of paper and hanging them under bamboo trees. Atsugi ITT has a trip to the festival on July 6.

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SEOUL SKY HOSPITAL

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

5 great battlefields for tourists

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Philosopher George Santayana once said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." With this in mind, members of travel website VirtualTourist.com share five locations of historical conflicts where even the most modest history buff can learn from the past as well as be inspired to build a more peaceful future:

1. Battle of Bosworth (Wars of the Roses), Leicestershire, United Kingdom

On the afternoon of Aug. 22, 1485, the course of English history changed. The Battle of Bosworth was the major turning point, for it was during this battle that King Richard III was killed and his place as monarch taken by a Welsh prince, Henry Tudor. Richard's troops are said to have camped near the village of Sutton Cheney, and Richard himself prayed in the tiny church of St. James the night before the battle. You can visit this beautiful little church most days, and see for yourself where Richard spent his last few hours. Each year, there is a re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth with traditional jousting, soldiers in armor charging each other and of course the charge led by King Richard against Henry Tudor, which ultimately led to his death.

2. Battle of Gettysburg (American Civil War), in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pa., United States

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought between Union and Confederate forces July 1-3, 1863, turned the tide of the American Civil War against the Confederacy. The "battlefield" is actually a series of locations now part of the U.S. National Park Service, with the town and houses intermixed with the fields, over which tens of thousands of men fought. Monuments have been erected for individual Union and Confederate units on the site where the unit fought. This battle is also what led to President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, one of the most powerful speeches in the history of the United States.



VIRTUALTOURIST/MCT

The Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, Japan, is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

3. Bombing of Hiroshima (World War II), Hiroshima, Japan

During World War II, on Aug. 6, 1945, the world's first deployed atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima by an American B-29 bomber, killing approximately 80,000 people. Its target was the Aioi Bridge but it missed and exploded almost directly above a building, which was at the time an exhibition hall known as the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. A surprising amount remained intact, even though everyone inside was killed instantly. For some years after the war, the skeleton of the building remained as it was, and debate raged over what to do with it. In 1966, the city council declared that it intended to preserve the building, undertaking only the minimal work necessary to ensuring its stability. In

December 1996, the Atomic Bomb Dome was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

4. The Battlefields of the Western Front (World War I), in the province of Flanders, Belgium and Northern France

Stretching through 450 miles of the Belgian province of Flanders and regions of northern and eastern France, the fighting on the Western Front started in 1914 when Germany invaded Luxembourg and Belgium on its way to France. It ended in 1918 with the collapse of the German Empire and the Treaty of Versailles. It is estimated that more than 13 million soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or missing. While there are numerous preserved sites and monuments to visit along the coastal stretch, one of the most moving sites is the Notre Dame de Lorette Cemetery in Ablain, France. Also known as Ablain St.-Nazaire French Military Cemetery, it was the site of three battles and is now the location of the world's largest French military cemetery, holding the remains of 40,000 casualties, most from the First World War.

5. Battle of San Jacinto (Texas Revolution), La Porte, Texas, United States

On April 21, 1836, Gen. Sam Houston led his troops to battle against superior forces led by Mexican Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Houston's troops were eager for revenge over the devastation and fall of the Alamo. In a surprise attack, the Texans were able to overtake the Mexican camp in a battle that lasted only 18 minutes. Although only nine Texans died during the battle, a monument was erected dedicated to all the heroes of the Battle of San Jacinto and to honor all others who contributed to the creation of the independent Republic of Texas. The 570-foot-tall monument is the world's tallest memorial column and is topped with a 34-foot star symbolizing the Lone Star Republic. The BattleShip Texas (BB-35) is moored in the Houston Ship Channel less than a mile away, the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S.

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

After Hours: Japan

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Isometimes struggle with competing instincts when I find a place I regularly enjoy: telling everyone I know how good it is versus keeping it to myself.

Judging by the average weekend crowds at Full Monty British Pub and Cider House in Yokohama these days, it's not much of a secret anyway, so I might as well let you in on what I consider one of the region's best pubs.

There are a few pubs in the area that serve good food and drinks but have an ambience about as exciting as a post office. Others are lively but consider themselves British simply because they have a "mind the gap" sign on the wall and a bottle of Bass Ale dating to 1997 in the back of the fridge.

Full Monty suffers from no such faults. It is unmistakably British — and rather English, for that matter — from the match or movie playing above the bar right down to Clive Poole, the Liverpool FC-loving cider connoisseur serving up the pints.

This is Poole's third Full Monty incarnation in its nine years of existence in Yokohama. Although this one is smaller than the previous Kannai location, its selection of quality drinks remains large.

The rotating kegs generally will have something that craft beer fans know well, such as an offering from Oregon-based Rogue Brewery. But the newer experiences, particularly for Americans, might include an Iron Maiden Trooper Ale or a Bladdyn 1075 IPA.

At 1,000 yen per pint, the drinks aren't cheap, compared with a night of Asahi or chu-hai at the average izakaya. But given the serving size, the average strength and the superior quality of the beer, the prices are on par and possibly better than other craft pubs in the region. Half- and ¾-pint sizes are also available at lower prices.

If beer doesn't excite you, or you're just looking for something new, there isn't a better place around to learn about ciders.

There are several on tap and in bottles, ranging in taste and texture from a bone-dry champagne to something approaching apple-jug sweetness. Several of the ciders make a fine finish to the hearty food available.



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Clive Poole serves up a pint of ale at Full Monty in Yokohama. The British pub features a rotating variety of craft beers and ciders.



The half-sized all-day breakfast at Full Monty in Yokohama should fill you up nicely, but if you're starving, there's always the full version.

While I suppose it's possible to come to Full Monty on a diet, I wouldn't recommend it. The full all-day breakfast is ample for a starving man; the half-sized breakfast of eggs, sausage, beans and more should be plenty for others.

Fish and chips is always popular here, especially on Wednesdays, when the dish is available with a pint for 1,500 yen. The

fish here flakes off nicely on the fork, while still carrying enough heft to stand up to frying without going dry. The day's curry is another good choice, especially if it's the spicy lamb vindaloo.

Unfortunately, Full Monty is on its summer pie hiatus. The freshly made savory pies will be back in autumn, and when they are, you might want to arrive early before offerings like the

FULL MONTY BRITISH PUB & CIDER HOUSE

Directions: From Keikeyi Hinocho Station, cross the street to the bridge. Full Monty should be visible across the river. If not, cross the bridge, turn left and look about 100 meters away on the right, on the corner. From JR Kannai, take the north exit, walk straight up to the light and head left, crossing the main street. Then face right and cross the street again. Walk for 5-10 minutes along Yoshidamachi until you get to the river, then turn left along the river, without

crossing it. Walk for about five minutes along the river until you see Full Monty on the left. Find a map in Japanese at fullmontyyokohama.com/map.html
Hours: Closed Mondays. Open 5 p.m. to midnight Tue.-Fri.; 4 p.m. to midnight Sat.; 4 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. Hours are subject to change, so call or visit the pub's Facebook page before coming.

More information: Phone: 045-334-8787. The pub has a Facebook page.

— Erik Slavin

steak and stilton cheese pie sell out.

If you're coming out on a Friday or Saturday night, arriving early is wise for groups, since table space is sparse here.

That said, the compact space is also what gives Full Monty its warmth. It's a natural space for

easy conversation with anyone from a sailor to a Japanese office worker to a homesick Englishman blaming his favorite football team's manager for the downfall of western civilization — as others nod right along with him.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

5 favorites

Try these easy-to-navigate cities in China

By KERI WIGINTON
Chicago Tribune

Three years ago I got engaged on the Great Wall in Beijing. Since then, China has held a special place in my heart, so my husband and I jumped at the chance to tag along with a Mandarin-speaking friend during a two-week jaunt through the country.

China can be intimidating, but many of its cities are easy to navigate for English speakers. Here are five tourist-friendly locales.

• **Hong Kong:** Our trip started here, where there is a large English presence because it was under British rule until 1997. The efficient, extensive subway announces each stop in English, and many locals are bilingual.

We stayed on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong and decided to take a day trip out of the city and over to Lantau Island. We made our way to the Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car to take a 25-minute ride. The trip gave us a view of the Hong Kong International Airport, the South China Sea and the rolling lush landscape on the way to the Tian Tan Buddha Statue, better known as Big Buddha.

• **Yangshuo:** If you're anywhere near it, this quiet city is a must-see. The vacation town is most known for its sharp mountains covered by lush greenery in an area free of the noise and air pollution that plague larger Chinese cities.

KNOW & GO

- Travel to China requires a visa.
- Booking hotels in advance is advisable because walk-up prices can be markedly more expensive. To arrange trains, hotels, tours and domestic flights, visit english.ctrip.com

From Hong Kong, take the subway across the Chinese border to Shenzhen, where you can hop on an overnight train to Guilin for about \$40. Tickets must be bought in advance.

A pre-arranged English-speaking driver can pick you up at the Guilin train station and take you to get a bowl of Guilin rice noodles, a local breakfast staple. (To make arrangements, visit www.guilincits.com) The driver can then take you to get boat tickets (\$35) for a four-hour boat ride up the Li River.

Once in Yangshuo, hire a local tour

guide to take you on an all-day bike ride. (Guides can be found through Bike Asia, bikeasia.com.) For about \$20 we hired a guide who spoke English, Mandarin and the local dialect to help us rent bikes (\$5) for a tour of the countryside.

• **Guilin:** This is mostly a stop for people heading to and from Yangshuo, but it's worth a half-day walk around while you wait for your next train. Take a stroll

along the Li River and head to Fubo Shan peak to get a 360-degree view of the city.

• **Xian:** This is home to the Terracotta Army, life-size soldiers created to guard Qin Shi Huang's tomb more than 2,000 years ago.

A farmer discovered the soldiers in 1974. Minibuses leave constantly from the local train station and can get you to the site in about an hour (\$8).

After a day of sightseeing, walk through the city's Muslim Quarter. This



Fresh peppers sit for sale in Hong Kong's flower district.



Visitors walk out onto West Lake in Hangzhou, the capital and largest city of the Zhejiang Province in Eastern China.



While spending an afternoon in Guilin, take a short walk to the top of the Fubo Shan peak to see a 360-degree view of the city.

district offers an array of open-air restaurants and street food. We tasted spicy tofu and potatoes cooked and seasoned to order. Pick up some *jian dui*, a Chinese pastry made from glutinous rice flour and filled with sweet red bean paste.

• **Hangzhou:** A domestic flight (\$70) is an easy, fast way to get from Xian to Hangzhou, which is a picturesque city 110 miles

southwest of Shanghai. The city is home to beautiful West Lake and is known as one of China's most scenic and historic places.

Visitors can bike around the lake, take a covered boat ride or sit on the shore under weeping willow trees. Take a walk to Lingering Rosy Cloud Mountain, where a trail takes you to the top for a magnificent view of the city.



Guides on bamboo rafts wait to take tourists along the Yulong River in Yangshuo.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

Willie Nelson

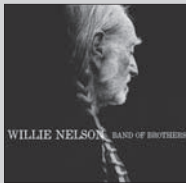
Band of Brothers (Legacy)

Willie Nelson has written a song — sometimes two, three or four — for every occasion, mood and moment. There's Wistful Willie. Defiant Willie. Repentant Willie. Randy Willie. Preacher Willie. Populist Willie. Whimsical Willie. Vengeful Willie.

Nelson the songwriter returns in all his wonderful guises on the first album of mostly new material he penned himself since 1996's "Spirit," the best album of the latter half of his 60-year career. Nelson wrote nine of the 14 songs on "Band of Brothers" with producer Buddy Cannon, and each is a perfect projection of its writer's best qualities. They're comfortable, familiar, well-worn, but also new and different.

Nelson is 81 now, and the new songs make allowances for this. His defiant moments sound a little more world-weary, his regrets a bit more painful. But his sense of humor and philosopher's personality remain undiminished.

"Band of Brothers" opens with Defiant Willie staring down the storm on "Bring It On." Wistful Willie lets the "Guitar in the Corner" play him, Repentant Willie hits

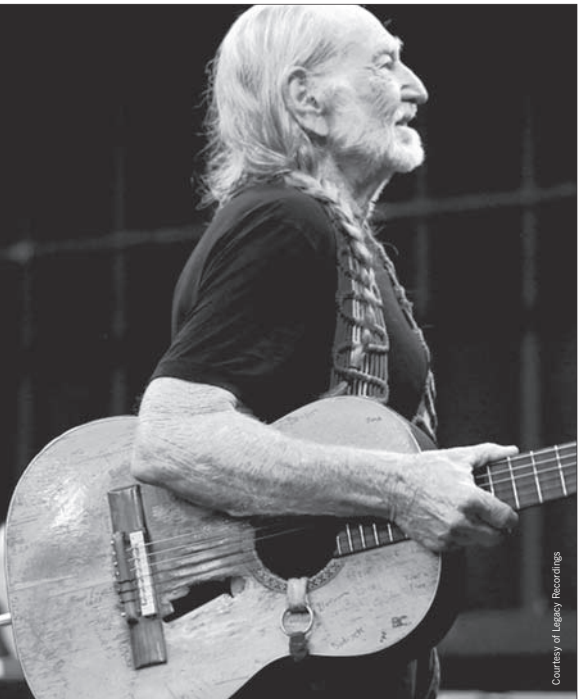


"The Wall" and Randy Willie leads us through a tall tale of all his "Wives and Girl-friends," "but may they never meet/may they never know each other when they pass on the street."

Populist Willie provides the title track, a beautiful display of the sentiment that has made Nelson incongruously both an outlaw and a figure beloved by all. "We're a band of brothers and sisters and whatever/On a mission to break all the rules."

Nelson positions that song between a pair of Billy Joe Shaver covers — "The Git Go," featuring Jamey Johnson, and "It's Hard to Be an Outlaw" — midway through the album, and this outlaw triptych serves as a powerful reminder of why we've loved Nelson all these years.

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press



Courtesy of Legacy Recordings



Sharon Van Etten

Are We There (Jagjaguwar)

Sharon Van Etten sings simple love songs that are anything but simple. On her fourth and best album, Van Etten teams with veteran producer Stewart Lerman and collaborates with a cast of musical helmsmates that includes Dave Hartley and Adam Granduciel of The War On Drugs to craft a set of 11 wounded, openhearted songs that soar with heightened emotional intensity. Van Etten's voice sweeps you up in its richly luxurious tone, and she varies and refines her approach. The majestically wounded "Your Love Is Killing Me" is enacted on a mythical plane akin to epic heartbreak songs such as Lucinda Williams' "I Changed the Locks." The supervulnerable "You Know Me Well" and "Break Me" make the search for "your own true self" seem an operative matter of life and death.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer



50 Cent

Animal Ambition:
An Untamed Desire to Win
(G-Unit/Caroline)

Oh, how the Fiddy hath fallen. Eleven years after "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" (and its audacious follow-up, "The Massacre"), much of what made 50 Cent provocative and new is gone. In those recordings, his swaggering voice — a low, rumbling mumble, much of it as it was threatening — was matched by spare, sure arrangements. His voice, and that sound, are still central in "Animal Ambition."

There is, alas, bad news, most of it lyrical. 50 Cent has dropped most of the gangsta rap content — as he had to do if he were to move forward. The problem is, he hasn't found a workable replacement and is fumbling for words to match his flow.

So "Animals" good, not great. Call it a mixtape-plus.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Chrissie Hynde

Stockholm (Caroline)

It's an awful irony that the most notable thing about the first album Pretenders frontwoman Chrissie Hynde is releasing under her own name is its lack of distinctiveness.

Hynde wrote and recorded with Swedish producer Bjorn Yttling of the band Peter, Dink and John. Frankly, much of it is generic, bouncy pop-rock, pleasing to the ear and forgotten as soon as it fades out. It could be anyone singing, not one of rock music's most recognizable voices.

Hynde's voice is special because it can evoke off-the-cuff sass and heartbreaking melancholy. There's one good example of each here: the danceable single "Dark Sunglasses" and the lovely "Adding the Blue." When her great career is recapped, they'll be the only things worth recalling from "Stockholm."

— David Bauder
The Associated Press



Joe Henry

Invisible Hour (Work Song)

Joe Henry has produced artists ranging from Aaron Neville and Billy Bragg to Me'Shell Ndegeocello and Bonnie Raitt. Yet when he makes his own albums, they sound like no one else.

"Invisible Hour" is an enchanting 60 minutes of music packaged in 11 songs that reveal their charms slowly.

Hooks are few and the accompaniment is spare. The focus remains on Henry's lyrics, which read like literature, with unpredictable rhythms and noun-verb combinations. Hearts wane. Shadows wait. Angels rumble. Days flee.

He sings these words with the timbre of a soul man and scoops into them like a country artist. Henry is both, and neither, producing music beyond category. This is what makes "Invisible Hour" time well spent.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press



Clear Plastic Masks

Being There (Serpents & Snakes)

Nashville's burgeoning rock 'n' roll scene just got even better with the release of Clear Plastic Masks' "Being There."

The greasy, '70s rock-added quartet got together in Brooklyn, N.Y., and came to Nashville to record. They never left, signing with Kings of Leon label Serpents & Snakes and helping round out a scene that's gotten a lot of attention in recent years.

The band has two modes: lounge and loud. Lead singer Andrew Katz has a tendency to crowd, sitting at the keyboard and playing with a twinkling grin. But Clear Plastic Masks is at its best on songs like "Pegasus in Glue," "Shakedown" and "Dos Cobras," tracks where Katz leans in and joins the band like a closed fist.

Those songs shake with power and promise — and might open the door for another Nashville band.

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press

WEEKEND: MUSIC



Defiant seduction from pop instigator

Lana Del Rey brings listeners into a dysfunctional world on 'Ultraviolence'

If there's a central message to "Ultraviolence," the highly anticipated new album by Lana Del Rey, it is this: Why mind Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg's advice that a modern woman "lean in" when she can get what's desired through reclining?

Filled with the kind of echoed, distant seduction that has made the young chanteuse-instigator one of the most polarizing pop stars in recent memory, Del Rey's follow-up to her multi-platinum "Born to Die" is rife with incitements and further defines her philosophy, one that's as provocative in its way as punk rock but without all that screaming.

This belief system on "Ultraviolence" preaches a cutthroat approach to finding and retaining bliss. Put on a red dress on the album's opener, "Cruel World," seduce a famous man with "a little bit of bourbon" and tell him you're crazy.

Examine domestic violence on the title track with meaty lines such as "he

hurt me but it felt like true love," but include more questions than answers. Stare unflinchingly at pure, blind desire.

Desire is the most potent drug on "Ultraviolence," an 11-song record featuring Del Rey's trademark tone, one with the sonic feel of a fading Polaroid and a languorous approach that, depending on your mood and constitution, will sound either lethargic to the point of nodding off or as blissfully relaxing as a massage.

Where more prominent pop stars trade in a dazzling brand of empowered sexuality, on "Ultraviolence" Del Rey focuses on the unfortunate truths and the nuances, contrived as they sometimes might be, more eager to paint a

picture than to analyze it.

The contrivances are there, mostly in oddball American signifiers that dot each song with telling accents. Her man drives a Chevy Malibu. The "other woman" will prevail because unlike the wife, she's never seen with "pin curls in her hair anywhere."

On bonus track "Is This Happiness?" she describes being "high up in the Hollywood Hills crushing violet pills." "Old Money" trades in "cashmere, cologne and white sunshine/Red racing cars, Sunset and Vine." Each little placement adds to the mystique.

Produced by Dan Auerbach, the singer and guitarist for the Black Keys, the album doubles down on what she and he have described as "marco-swing," soft, billowy production heavy on melodramatic strings and perfectly placed wah-wah guitar, easy on the rhythms and synthetics. Turn it up loud and melt into the couch.

The tension will swirl as Del Rey's voice roams, more assured than on her last record. With this tone come myriad

romantic battles. She battles herself, spurned women and desirable men. She's a brat with an attitude on "Shades of Cool": "When he calls, he calls for me and not for you," she brags. "He lives for love, he loves his drugs, he loves his baby too."

She defiantly defends the other woman in "Sad Girl" with an opening verse sure to anger cuckolds everywhere: "Being a mistress on the side/It might not appeal to fools like you/Creeeping around on the side/Would not be something you would do." Del Rey admits to the downside of the equation in "The Other Woman," which acknowledges the dangers of such arrangements.

It's this brand of tension that feeds "Ultraviolence," a kind of willfully woozy series of contradictions that combine to create a convincing argument. Whether it's one you echo or despise, one you'll lean in to hear or lie back and absorb, Del Rey doesn't seem to care. Unless she does.

— Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times



Lana Del Rey

Ultraviolence (Interscope)

On "Ultraviolence," the follow-up to 2012's "Born to Die," a more-assured Lana Del Rey sings of spurned women, toxic relationships and the art of seduction.

Courtesy of Shore Fire Media

WEEK-END: BOOKS

James Patterson is getting kids to read

Famed crime novelist aims to boost youth literacy through scholarships, website

By STEVE JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

James Patterson, king of the airport novelists, spent several days recently being celebrated by the nation's independent booksellers. On its face, it seems like an irony: Author of unabashedly commercial fiction earns plaudits from snooty vendors of capital "L" literature.

But when you dig deeper, there is, of course, more to the story than a couple of easy stereotypes clashing. Independent bookstores, the ones that survive, are doing a better job of not looking down their noses at a reader who just wants a good mystery or crime novel.

And Patterson is not "some numskull who writes numskull books," as he summed up the stereotype about him during interviews at Book Expo America, the nation's largest publishing trade show. His work to help the indies, including a \$1 million cash giveaway throughout 2014, stems from a long-standing commitment to boost reading, especially among children.

Time and again, people would approach him at the expo and say things like this, from a woman who has a store in Brooklyn:

"Can I just say hello? I'm an indie bookseller, and I want to say thank you for what you're doing."

And Patterson, 67, would say things in response like, "Excellent. Wonderful. We need you unless we try stuff." And this, to a reporter accompanying him, as the onslaught of kudos grew, "They're all plants."

You could see him winning the Hudson News Prize, if such a thing existed. He's written or co-written about 100 books



JAY L. CLENNIN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Author James Patterson urges parents to help kids find books they'll like to instill good reading habits.

and sold a reported 300 million. Eight of his titles, as writer or co-writer, are on the shelves of a Hudson News at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. At the end of "Alex Cross, Run," the latest in the series about the Washington, D.C., detective that is the foundation of his empire, it takes almost four pages, in tiny print, to do the also-by-James-Patterson list.

But instead, Patterson, at BEA, got the Indie Champion Award given to the writer or illustrator

with "the best sense of the importance of independent bookstores to their communities at large and the strongest personal commitment to foster and support the mission and passion of independent booksellers."

The stores that get his funding, \$535,000 of it so far, at least have to have a children's section.

But Patterson also gives scholarships to prospective teachers, funding programs and methods for boosting reading;

hosts a book-recommendation website, Read, Kiddo, Read; and co-writes his own series of young adult and middle grade novels, humor-laden books about alienated or misfit teens that are very far removed from the often lurid crime stories he aims at adults.

"I've done a bunch of books now with pictures in them (for kids)," Patterson said. "They're not dumb books. There's nothing wrong with pictures. Movies are all pictures. I don't know if

you've noticed, but museums have a lot of pictures in them. Pictures are just fine."

And, he says, they help make text more welcoming to those who might otherwise be intimidated: "Kids will go, 'Oh, I can do this,' and they'll read two or three chapters before they notice."

The author, who lives in Florida, said his interest in young readers grew out of personal observation. He became a father late in life, and he saw that his son, Jack, now 16, and his friends had little regard for books.

"He was a smart boy," Patterson said. "He wasn't a big reader. And when he was 8, (wife) Sue and I, that summer, said, 'You're going to read every day, you know, unless you want to go live in the garage. We read in our house. That's the deal.'"

"But we're going to go out with you, and we're going to get good books.' One of the messages I try to get into parents' heads is, it's your job. It's not the schools' job to get books for your kids. You know, if you don't go to the library, you don't go to bookstores, start. Or online, however you want to do it."

"And by the end of the summer, Jack had read, like, a dozen books. We got pretty cool books. They ranged from 'A Wrinkle in Time' to Rick Riordan (the Percy Jackson series) to 'Al Capone Does My Shirts.' Most of them were lively, good stories. And he liked all of them, actually. And by the end of the summer, he had gotten that into his system."

From watching that effort take hold, Patterson became convinced there was more to be done.

"I just became aware of how hard it is to get kids interested in books and how important," he said.

'Vacationers' takes readers on affecting, funny ride

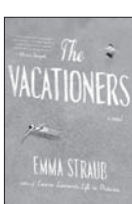
By HANNAH SAMPSON
The Miami Herald

Readers meet a kindred spirit on the opening page of Emma Straub's winsome new novel when Jim Post worries about the contents of his suitcase: "Had he packed enough books?"

Yes, this is the sort of person you — or at least I — wouldn't mind passing a fictional vacation with. The fact that he is disgraced when the novel opens, forced to retire from his job as a men's magazine editor after an affair with a 23-year-old editorial assistant, dampens that sentiment only slightly.

Jim and Franny, a freelance food writer, are Upper West Side literati whose teenage daughter Sylvia is prone to babbling, when nervous, about which Brontë is most underrated and who compares her mother's writing style to "Jean Didion, but with an appetite, or like Ruth Reichl, but with an attitude problem."

The novel centers on a long-planned family vacation to Mallorca celebrating Sylvia's high school graduation; the second-ary celebration, of Jim and Franny's 35th anniversary, is muted due to the circumstances.



Along for the trip are son Bobby, a struggling Miami real estate agent 10 years older than Sylvia; Carmen, Bobby's "albatross of a girlfriend" who is more than 10 years his senior; Charles, an artist

who is Franny's best friend; and Lawrence, Charles' baby-crazy husband.

"The idea had been to be together, every-

one nicely trapped, with card games and wine and all the fixings of satisfying summers at their fingertips," says the narra-

tor, who gives us a peek inside everyone's head. Instead, the group coexists while dealing with personal crises that range from embarrassing (Sylvia's sloppy drunken partying that ended up on Facebook) to momentous (Charles and Lawrence's adoption plans) to financially devastating (Bobby's six-figure debt) to personally ruinous (Jim's affair).

While the characters' days are mostly filled with humdrum vacation activities — with the exception of the hilarious, dramatic beach trip that injects some slapstick comedy — the plot is driven by the individual dramas and interactions between characters, who are perfectly sketched.

We love Franny because she loves to eat and cook, and she doesn't mind that her body reflects that: "... (It was true that Franny had gotten thicker in the last decade, but that was what happened unless you were a high-functioning psychotic."

We love Lawrence because he gets away

with being the caty outsider who thinks Carmen "looked like one of the Spice Girls after a decade out of the spotlight, slightly worse for wear."

We do not love Bobby, who is kind of a jerk and an idiot. We even come to appreciate Carmen, whose griv serves as a reminder that the world of upper-middle-class Manhattanites is a bubble far removed from reality.

A few Mallorca locals and other tourists make appearances — all to comic effect — but the novel's magic lies in watching a once-close-knit family try to find its way back to each other.

The finest moment of the novel comes near the end, during a routine pancake breakfast.

Straub, the author of the novel "Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures" and a short-story collection, infuses the scene with such wonderful nostalgia and hope. The vacation might be ending, but we're reminded that the journey — sometimes painful, often joyful — continues.

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD



MARTIN SCALLI, FOX SEARCHLIGHT FILMS/AP

From left: Paul Schlase, Tony Revelori, Tilda Swinton and Ralph Fiennes star in "The Grand Budapest Hotel." The film is now available on DVD.

"The Grand Budapest Hotel": A popular hotel employee goes on the run. Ralph Fiennes stars.

Wes Anderson's films are always filled with a sense of whimsy, but none has been as whimsical as "The Grand Budapest Hotel." The director's latest offering is as if Hans Christian Andersen had written a script for Quentin Tarantino because it blends the charm of a fairy tale with the craziness of a fast-talking action film.

The director has a frantic and specific rhythm to the way he presents dialogue, which is probably why he continues to go back to the same performers he's used before — Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Jeff Goldblum, etc. They understand the cadence needed to match the visual imagery that Anderson splashes across the screen.

The film is loaded with tremendous supporting performances, topped by Willem Dafoe as a nonsensical no-nonsense killer. Because Dafoe plays the role with such commitment, the character never lapses into silly levels and maintains the feel of a villain from a melodrama.

"The Lego Movie": An average Lego construction worker has the power to save the world.

Directors/writers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller have taken the colorful children's toy and put it together with a solid script — one that has the high speed and quirky humor of "Airplane." The colorful animation and nonstop action will keep the attention of youngsters, while there's a smart level of humor aimed at adults.

The pacing is just a click below frantic and a click above manic. A mix of stop-action and computer-generated images, the film is an explosion of visual splendor. Each frame is a character, vehicle or building put together with such detail that every moment should be studied to fully appreciate the craftsmanship. If you have doubts, try building an ocean out of Legos and see how complicated it can be.

Also new on DVD: **"Walk of Shame":** Reporter's dream job is threatened by a one-night stand.

"The Monkey's Paw": Three wishes cause nothing but trouble.

"Transformers Beast Wars: Chain of Command": Optimus Primal and Maximals must stop Predacons.

"Meth Head": Depicts the consequences of meth in America.

"Alexander's Lost World": Traces the footsteps of Alexander the Great.

"The Rise of the Nazi Party": Documentary looks at the rise and fall of the Nazis.

"Doc Holiday's Revenge": Wounded warrior must be saved from Doc Holiday, his would-be killer.

"Power Rangers Megaforce: Ultra Defenders": Megaforce team looks to the sixth Ranger to help fend off major destruction.

"House of Cards: The Complete Second Season": Kevin Spacey plays the newly appointed vice president of the United States.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



An Explosive season

The latest, record-breaking installment of 'Game of Thrones' casts a spell on viewers

By VERNE GAY
Newsday

"Game of Thrones" went cosmic this season. Sure, 18 million viewers (18.4 million to be exact) is a lot of viewers — the most of any HBO series in history, surpassing "The Sopranos" just last week. But you know on a personal level that something has weirdly changed when you hear a guy on the subway next to you talk about the introductory course in High Valyrian Dothraki he's taking online.

Why do shows suddenly alter the world we inhabit? This indisputably happened during the fourth season of "Game of Thrones," which wraps Saturday on AFN-Spectrum. A quick primer on why "GoT" has become aekio — Dothraki for lord and master — of pop culture.

It zigged, then zagged, from the book

The fourth season has largely followed events depicted in "A Storm of Swords," the third volume in George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire," upon which "GoT" is based — but there have been many minor departures, too. Yes, this has happened every season, but this season: much more. From a viewer/fan standpoint, that's good in a couple of ways. Obviously, plot and narration can be condensed in the editing room to make the whole more TV-friendly (which happens each season), but showrunners D.B. Weiss and David Benioff have added new elements, stories and scenes this year. These tend to keep fans familiar with the books guessing, but also serve to reinforce the alluring idea that "GoT" inhabits a slightly separate universe from "Ice and Fire." The implicit message, therefore, becomes: Don't expect the exact outcome you all think is coming.



Photos courtesy of HBO

With 18.4 million viewers, season 4 of the fantasy series "Game of Thrones" is now HBO's most watched show ever.

The fourth season is based on a hugely popular book

"A Storm of Swords," published in 2000, remains a fan favorite for many reasons — notably it is probably one of the most cinematic books of the series, which I suppose is just another way of saying that a lot of wild and interesting stuff happens. Because "Swords" is so popular — and it is as fun to read as to watch — then it stands to reason that the resulting season should be as well.

Familiarity

The tipping point has been reached. Viewers no longer have to scramble over to "A Wiki of Ice and Fire" to find out what a "House Baratheon of Storm's End" is or who "Cersai" or "Sansa" is. They know the characters (and many of

the Houses) intimately — their storylines especially. There's nothing even vaguely remote about Westeros any longer. It's the epic fantasyland next door.

The fourth season just kept building ... and building

Narratively, the fourth season has been — bluntly speaking — nuts. Almost every episode has begun with a jaw-dropper, ended with one and dropped a few more jaws in between. The fourth season has simply been relentless, and while the finale would normally be the moment to pause, reflect, take a deep breath and take stock — the usual practice for "GoT" — viewers will not be afforded that luxury. In a statement (posted on EW.com June 11), Benioff and Weiss said, "We're immensely proud of (the finale, entitled 'The Children') and a little intimidated by the episode, because now we have to get back to the business of season five and figure out a way to top it."

It was deeper and richer

Great series, like good books, are about more than what's on the screen or on the page — a philosophy, a worldview and a sense that all this is really just an exploration of something more elemental, like the human condition. Martin has long said his yarn is a distant echo of the War of the Roses, the dynastic battles between the houses of Lancaster and York from the mid-1400s. Shakespeare also deeply into those, of course, basing any number of historical plays on that long and bloody struggle; Richard III, for example, who has been compared widely to Tyrion Lannister (Peter Dinklage), and even more to Stannis Baratheon (Stephen Dillane). "GoT" openly flirted with Shakespearean themes this season (most famously Tyrion's "beetles" speech two weeks ago). The flirtation has not only been exhilarating, but opened doors that thinking viewers can't wait to walk through.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Sid O' Bryant, Ph.D., of Fort Worth, Texas, advises men to adopt broader fitness routines.

9 Health-saving tips men should know

By LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Does your doctor ask about your alcohol habits? Doing so could save lives. Let's take a deep breath here and say that we love men. We appreciate them. We cannot imagine a world without them. Thus, we can often overlook certain shenanigans that make us cringe a bit.

Unless such recklessness comes at the expense of their health. So in the interest of keeping men on the planet as long as possible (which is already, on average, five years shorter than for women), we've asked experts what they wish men knew — and would incorporate into their lives.

"Where do we start?" says Sid O'Bryant, Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine at UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth. "There are a lot of things I want to convey, not only for men to understand they're not just important for the heart, but also for how your brain ages."

One of the key things he finds frustrating is how men don't think about brain health during aging.

"They wait till they're in their 80s and then say, 'I wish I would have done things differently,'" says O'Bryant, an Alzheimer's researcher. "Women plan better. Women plan to age. They actually think about it. We men plan for a financial future for our family. We think how our wives will be taken care of when we're gone, but not how we can be around longer."

If men pay attention to these nine things the experts want them to know, who's to say how much that life-span age gap can narrow?

1 Depression is nothing to be ashamed of

Depression is a real physiological event, says certified athletic trainer Ken Locker. But "most men don't think they have depression because they don't cry easily."

Men don't talk about depression, O'Bryant says. "And if we don't talk about it, it isn't real."

But, he says, "it's this huge thing that's impacting so many men across the age range. Men think we'll tough it out because we don't want to talk about it: 'It might make things worse,' or 'I'm admitting weakness.'"

"That is a huge hurdle for men that couldn't be more wrong," he says. "Strength is acknowledging the problem."

Depression doesn't just bring people down mentally; it hurts physically as well, he says. "If you're sick, depression makes it worse. If you have diabetes and depression, the diabetes is worse. It also increases the risk for Alzheimer's, and most people don't know that."

They also need to realize it's treatable, he says. "When depression gets better, other things get better. Diabetes can get better. The risk for Alzheimer's can go down."

What to do: Don't be ashamed to talk to your family doctor, who can recommend a professional counselor or prescribe medications.

2 You don't need a gym to be fit

"Gravity," Locker says, "was the first gym ever invented."

What to do: Walking, pushups, crunches and squats can be done anywhere.

3 Yoga isn't just a girl thing

Even in less than a year of being a certified chiropractor, Logan Sherman has witnessed plenty of examples of this belief not taken seriously.

"The big thing I see with a lot of male patients is that they potentially push past the minor things that could be caught at an earlier stage," he says, "and are now related to an injury."

Sherman, who is training for the 2016 Olympic Trials in the marathon, cites plantar fasciitis as an example.

"That's something that can really be avoided," he says. "Men say, 'Hey, I've experienced tightness in my calf the past couple of weeks.' They've heard from a buddy how he worked through it but never followed the steps. It ends up being a full-blown problem."

What to do: If you feel a twinge, rest. For plantar fasciitis, avoid going barefoot. Roll a tennis ball, golf ball or frozen water bottle under the foot several times a day. If the pain persists, check with your doctor.

4 Certain cancer screenings are imperative

"Prostate cancer is 'the easiest cancer to kill if it's detected,'" Locker says. But men, go figure, would happily skip that part of a physical, he says.

"They're afraid," he says. "Most men are ego-driven as far as their 'manhood,' but they need to take care of that manli-

hood part."

Another villain is colon cancer, which can be detected early, he says. "Men tend not to want to know, or to think they don't have any problems."

What to do: Schedule the screenings, for crying out loud.

5 'No pain, no gain' is stupid

Men need to realize that bench-pressing three days a week isn't going to cut it, workout-wise, Locker says. They need cardio, and another good choice is yoga.

"As you age, yoga is really good because it helps balance," he says. "It works against gravity. You have to stop, to concentrate

when you're doing it. It's good for men, too, not just for women."

What to do: Ask friends for recommendations, then try a class. Get there a few minutes early. If you don't like it, talk to the instructor, or try another. Don't give up after one class.

6 Your job is not a workout

Even if you do manual labor for a living, "physical activity is above and beyond anything you do in daily life," O'Bryant says. "You do need to raise your heart rate on a regular basis."

"Physical activity has such broad-based

benefits for men," he says. "It can reduce depression, help your memory, help your brain at a basic biological level. It may actually reduce the risk for Alzheimer's."

What to do: Move. And switch it up, Sherman says.

7 Don't be afraid to ask for help

"If we don't vary the stress or stimulus we put on the body, we become bored, the activity becomes mundane, and we don't gain as much physiological benefit as we would with a varied activity," he says.

"This is why I always encourage anyone to have faster, slower, longer, shorter, heavier, light, hard and easy days."

You don't automatically know what to do. "What men do that's the biggest problem in exercise is not asking for help," O'Bryant

says. "It's like that asking for directions thing. I go to the gym, and see people there for the first time and they think they automatically know what they're doing. But they're probably doing it wrong."

What to do: Use a trainer. Most gyms offer a free session with membership. Or research the correct way to work out efficiently. "By getting better at the exercises themselves, the outcomes have been better for me," O'Bryant says.

8 Sunscreen isn't for wimps

Yes, men get skin cancer, too. "If you're driving around a lot, you're getting sun rays on your face," Locker says. Ditto for your left arm, if you drive with your elbow out the window.

What to do: Use face cream with SPF of at least 15, Locker says. "It will keep your face looking younger and also prevent skin cancer."

Schedule a skin check once a year.

9 Exercising isn't a free license to eat anything

"Men who are successful getting into physical activity often think that's enough," O'Bryant says. "I work out so I can eat what I want." "I work out so I can drink whatever I want."

"Instead, you're negating the benefits,"

he says.

What to do: Think moderation. Also remember that diet "is not only related to heart health, but intimately related to brain health," O'Bryant says. "It's very, very powerful."

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Social media lets parents share kids' camp experience

By BETH J. HARPAZ
The Associated Press

Not long ago, parents who sent children to sleep-away camp might wait days or even weeks for a letter. And they'd be lucky if their kids' scribbled notes home said anything beyond "Send candy!" or "I'm homesick."

But now, many camps post photos and even videos online daily so parents can see what kids are doing — everything from cabin life to campfires to canoeing. Camp Dora Golding in Pennsylvania's Poconos Mountains has even launched a cellphone app so parents can easily access pictures on Facebook and Instagram.

"The parents are looking for this so they can know their kids are having a good time," said Elie Rosenfeld, spokesman for Dora Golding. "The camp still encourages kids to write home, but the days of waiting for the mailman to deliver a scribbled letter is long over."

Dora Golding, a Jewish camp in its 89th year, has assigned a staff member full-time to take and post pictures and videos, and a film crew will be shooting and making a weekly video for parents as well. Elizabeth Lampert of Alamo, Calif., says online images are "a life-line" while her 13-year-old attends Camp Timber Ridge in High View, W.Va. "It definitely allows me to let go," she said. "When I see the joy and happiness, I'm relieved. Almost every day, they would post between 50 and 100 photos. Every day I scroll through, and of course she looks like she's making friends, she's with a million people and I feel better about sending her. I'll see her on the trapeze, softball, kickball — one time I saw her in a hot-air balloon!"

Seeing photos also allows her to "engage" and "share" with her daughter when they're reunited "in a way that you absolutely couldn't



Many sleep-away camps, like Camp Burgess & Hayward, a YMCA facility on Cape Cod in Sandwich, Mass., top, and Camp Dora Golding in East Stroudsburg, Penn., above, now post photos online of daily activities so parents can see what their children are doing.

before." It's a big contrast from letters that Lampert sent home when she was at camp: "Hi mom, having fun. Send candy. Love, Elizabeth."

Rabbi Jason Miller, who worked for Tamarack Camps in Michigan for five years, says sometimes the effort to keep parents in touch can backfire. When parents can't find their kids in the photo gallery, they get concerned. And if they do see the child, they might call and ask, "Why is my kid sunburned? Why isn't he with his best friend? Why wasn't he wearing his glasses?" An animated YouTube video called "Sleep Away Camp" shows a mother who can't stop saying "Refresh!" because she spends all day checking a camp website for pictures of her son.

Jennifer Silverman, a New Yorker whose two kids are going to camp this summer, says online images are "good and bad.... There are hundreds to go through and can drive a parent crazy. I have had days where I could not find my daughter and wondered why she wasn't in them." When Silverman does see her child, "I try to read into them too much and look to see if she looks happy or if it looks like something is going on."

Interestingly, while camps are embracing 21st-century technology as a way of communicating with parents, most camps don't let kids

use electronics. Many camps let parents email kids — the messages are printed out and distributed — but kids can't email back. So why go to all this trouble with photos?

It's "a service provided to assuage parental anxiety," said Peg Smith, CEO of the American Camp Association.

Most camps make photos public on Facebook pages or other social media; parents are asked to sign a release allowing their children to be photographed. If they don't give permission, camps will keep them out of the pictures. But most photos show group activities, so privacy concerns from parents are rare.

Camp Burgess & Hayward, a YMCA facility on Cape Cod in Sandwich, Mass., has been periodically posting images for parents to see for a few years, but last year they began doing it daily. Meghan Hill, director of development, estimates about half the parents take a look every day and if they ask why their kids haven't shown up in pictures, she reminds them "we're trying to capture what's happening day to day and not specifically any children."

But overall, she says, parents are pleased with the images. "I get more calls saying, 'Oh, I saw a picture on Facebook and it looks like everyone's having the best time.'"

SPOUSE CALLS

Political scene needs more military spouses

In these days of threatened reductions in military benefits and mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs, for some military spouses, phoning or writing their legislators to sound off about the issues is no longer good enough.

"Instead of just saying, 'Call your congressman,' military spouses are asking, 'Why can't I be my congressman?'" said Amanda Patterson Crowe, a Navy reservist and Navy wife. Crowe is also the executive director of In Gear Career, which promotes professional development and education for military spouses.

In Gear Career and the Military Spouse JD Network, an association of legal professionals dedicated to causes associated with military families, were the co-hosts of an event called Homefront Rising this week in Tampa, Fla.

Homefront Rising is a one-day seminar geared to inform and equip military spouses about local, state and national politics, explained Lori Volkman, a Navy wife and communications director for MSJDN. She and Crowe have served as organizers for the events.

This week's seminar in Tampa was the second. The first was in February in Washington, D.C. The events are non-partisan and are intended to train military spouses to engage in political action at any level. Military spouses mingle with other like-minded military spouses as well as elected officials and political leaders.

Speakers at the events span the political spectrum. Many are veterans or military family members. They have included Army veteran and wounded warrior Rep. Tammie Duckworth (D-Ill.); Air Force veteran Rep. Dave Reichert (R-Wa.); military spouse and Republican governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley; Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-Mass.), who is a military daughter; and others.

Attendees also hear from political staffers and experts about campaign management, networking, public imaging, fundraising options and the toll a campaign can take on a family.

Homefront Rising is the brainchild of three military spouse professionals, Lauren Weiner, Donna Huneycutt, and Mary Reding, who were concerned about the waning number of military-connected individuals in a government.

"We created Homefront Rising to empower military spouses to change the political conversation," Reding said. "Having accomplished people in office who also have a true understanding of the military lifestyle makes our whole country stronger."

Air Force wife Adrianna Domingos-Lupher attended both events.

"What I experienced and observed while attending Homefront Rising was pure electricity," said Domingos-Lupher, editor-in-chief of the online magazine, NextGen Military Spouse. "We had military spouses from every political affiliation — right, left and smack dab in the center — eager to learn how to leverage their experience ... to bridge the military and civilian divide by engaging in the political process."

Volkman said Homefront Rising is changing the nature of political engagement in the military community. Participants have gone on to work on local campaigns, serve on the boards of community organizations and publish numerous articles.

Domingos-Lupher, after attending the D.C. event, was motivated to help organize the next event in her current hometown in Tampa. She said military spouses bring a perspective that is both military and civilian to political discourse.

"We are intimately connected to both worlds," she said. Crowe said the program taps into the potential of military spouses.

"We developed Homefront Rising because we believe military spouses can serve as powerful representatives of military families, and because of our breadth of experience in living everywhere from small-town America to large metropolitan cities, we truly do represent families outside the military," Crowe said.

There are no future Homefront Rising events on the calendar yet, but the enthusiasm of the organizers and participants suggest there will be soon.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

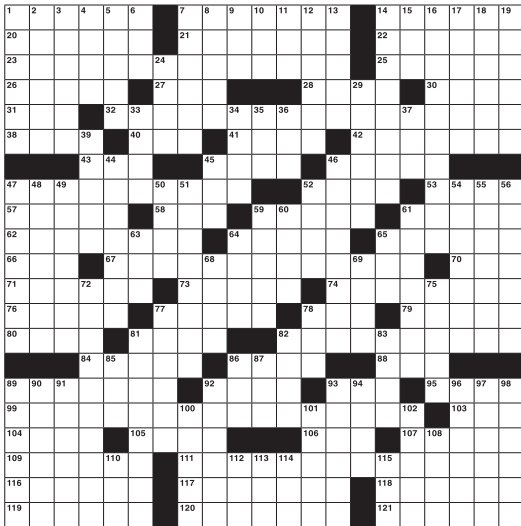
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ENRICH

BY TONY ORBACH / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Sack lunch staple, for short
- 7 Bumbling sergeant on "Hogan's Heroes"
- 14 Like a universal recipient
- 20 Night lights
- 21 Wyoming people
- 22 Chief Theban deity
- 23 Episode title for a cooking show featuring chicken recipes?
- 25 Alex of "Blazing Saddles"
- 26 Nixon's veep
- 27 "Get ___"
- 28 Lighten
- 30 Grub
- 31 Certain petty officer: Abbr.
- 32 Goal for a comic working the Strip?
- 38 Ballet and others
- 40 Court grp.
- 41 Awed
- 42 Gere's wife in "Dr. T & the Women"
- 43 Bit of needwork?
- 45 What a 9-5 worker worked on?
- 46 Caper movie plot piece
- 47 Informal advice to an overageer picker?
- 52 "O.K." from Tom Sawyer
- 53 Spot, maybe
- 57 Warning
- 58 Floor
- 59 German geographical name suffix
- 61 "___ Street Blues"
- 62 Jane ___ Helen Mirren's "Prime Suspect" role
- 64 Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning role in "Life Is Beautiful"
- 65 Writing tip
- 66 Ill. neighbor
- 67 Request to represent a Minnesota senator's side of a debate?
- 70 Word shouted immediately before "Feliz Año Nuevo"
- 71 Without exception
- 73 Journalist Pyl
- 74 Well maintained
- 76 Go for ___
- 77 Additions and subtractions, of a sort
- 78 Lao___
- 79 Health care company in the Fortune 100
- 80 Command
- 81 Like one saying "I told you so!"
- 82 Tarzan's response when asked if the noodles are cooked?
- 84 "You dig?" repl y
- 86 Murder
- 88 Philip of "Kung Fu"
- 89 Tries to hear better, say
- 92 Either Abby or Martha in "Arsenic and Old Lace"
- 93 Carrying one is part of a tour duty
- 95 Performer of tricks?
- 99 Naval officer who's an expert in astrology?
- 103 "I'll pass"
- 104 Lupino and Tarbell
- 105 Scottish hillside
- 106 Basketball
- 107 Nimble
- 109 "Oh, no? I'll show you!"
- 111 Religious ceremony for two Hollywood brothers?
- 116 Rearward
- 117 Portmanteau landmass
- 118 It comes as a shock
- 119 Whitefield of "The Real Housewives of Atlanta"
- 120 Flower parts
- 121 Cause for burning at the stake
- 9 Vietnamese coin
- 10 Former "Veronica Mars" aier
- 11 "Well, ___-di-dah"
- 12 Option for "Which came first, ___?"
- 13 Like London Tube pricing
- 14 Points
- 15 Diva Sumac
- 16 Beauty ideal
- 17 Incense
- 18 Genesis mount
- 19 Like the lowest of low blows
- 24 Pequod captain
- 29 Most conservative
- 33 ___-act
- 34 Indian bread
- 35 Supermarket chain
- 36 Head
- 37 Bugs, of a sort
- 39 Severe
- 44 A, but not B or C
- 45 Do some needwork
- 46 Pleasure seeking
- 47 Queen of "Chicago"
- 48 Title girl in a 1968 hit by the Turtles
- 49 Certain shoot
- 50 When repeated, a happy cry
- 51 Forked over
- 52 When tripled, blah, blah, blah
- 54 South Pacific archipelago
- 55 Truing: Var.
- 56 Kerr of "An Affair to Remember"
- 59 Muslim mystics
- 60 Need spelling, say
- 61 Not worthy of



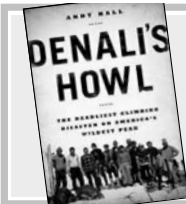
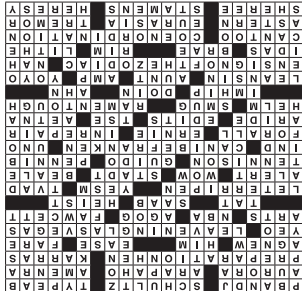
- 63 Bando of baseball
- 64 Fello w
- 65 According to
- 68 Jolly Roger in "Peter Pan", e.g.
- 69 One might be brought up in a brawl
- 72 Supervise
- 75 Showy bloom
- 77 Key of Dvorak's Symphony No. 9
- 78 M&M color replaced by blue
- 81 Shank
- 82 Luxuriousness
- 83 River whose source is Mount Saint Helena
- 85 N.Y.C. sports venue
- 86 (Forehead slap)
- 87 1300 hours, to a civilian
- 89 Classic German cameras
- 90 -
- 91 People of Ghana: Var.
- 92 Paid for dinner, say
- 93 Title sneaker brand in a
- 94 Run-D.M.C. hit
- 95 Food critic Sheraton
- 96 Punctually
- 97 Bozos
- 98 Short-story award
- 100 Mugs
- 101 Politico Hatch
- 102 County near Imerick
- 108 Ancient artery
- 110 Iron
- 112 Disco
- 113 60's service site
- 114 Sugar suffi x
- 115 Ultimate

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



In 1967, twelve young men set out to climb Alaska's Mount McKinley—known as Denali—one of the world's most popular and deadly mountaineering destinations. At nearly 20,000 feet, they endured winds of up to 300 miles an hour, freezing flesh solid in minutes. Only five survived.

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'Transformers' opens worldwide in Hong Kong



PHOTOS BY KIM CHEUNG/AP

Actor Mark Wahlberg stands near a giant statue of Optimus Prime at the world premiere of the "Transformers 4: Age of Extinction" in Hong Kong on Thursday. The latest installment in the blockbuster series of Transformers films opened not in the usual entertainment hubs of Los Angeles or New York but in this wealthy Chinese metropolis, a sign of Hollywood's increasing focus on China's film market. Below, American actress Nicola Peltz is photographed on the red carpet as she arrives at the premiere.

By KELVIN CHAN
The Associated Press

The stars of "Transformers: Age of Extinction," including Mark Wahlberg and good-guy robot Optimus Prime, were attending the film's worldwide premiere Thursday in Hong Kong, which was a key part of the blockbuster franchise's latest installment.

Wahlberg and other cast members including Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer and Nicola Peltz walked the red carpet to the screening as a giant statue of Autobot leader Optimus Prime overlooked the venue next to a waterfront promenade on famed Victoria Harbor.

The film's debut in the southern Chinese metropolis ahead of its launch in New York next week is the latest sign of Hollywood's increasing focus on China's booming film market.

The fourth installment of the Michael Bay-directed franchise is due in North American and Chinese cinemas June 27. While the films have been derided by critics as superficial, mindless action flicks overloaded with computer-generated effects, that hasn't hurt their global appeal. The franchise's third film, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," earned \$1.1 billion at the global box office,



with \$165 million from China, its second biggest market after North America.

Production in Hong Kong last year made world headlines after it was disrupted by two extortion attempts, including an incident in which a man reportedly swung an air conditioner at Bay's head. One assailant in that incident was later sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Wahlberg stars as a mechanic who finds a rundown truck that turns out to be Optimus Prime. While most of the film is set in the U.S., Hong Kong's skyscraper-studded skyline is the backdrop for the climactic battle sequence, in which the Transform-

ers — giant, sentient robots that change into cars, jets and helicopters — trash the city onscreen.

The Autobots and their Deception enemies clash in the tenements of Kowloon and above the financial district's glittering towers. Spaceships hover above the city, tearing apart a waterfront convention center and throwing the former British colony's iconic Star Ferry about like a toy.

Other nods to China include scenes featuring the Great Wall in Beijing and the southern factory hub of Guangzhou, where a nefarious tycoon played by Tucci collaborates with Chinese actress Li Bingbing's biotech CEO character to produce robots based on the metal Transformers are made of. Four other minor roles were filled through a talent search on Chinese TV.

The premiere "can be viewed as an indication of Asia's growing importance in the global industry — and that Hong Kong, as an extension of the China market, was both convenient and meaningful for the venue," said Rance Pow, president of Shanghai-based film consultancy Artisan gateway.

China is the world's second-biggest film market, with box-office revenues up by nearly a third in the first quarter after rising 27.5 percent last year to \$3.6 billion.

Jay Leno to get top US humor prize

Newly retired from "The Tonight Show," television host Jay Leno is now being awarded the top U.S. humor prize for following in the tradition of satire and social commentary of Mark Twain, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced Wednesday.

Leno will be honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in a performance by his fellow comedians Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes people who have had an impact on American society through their humor and social commentary.

"Like Mark Twain, Jay Leno has offered us a lifetime's worth of humorous commentary on American daily life," said Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein in announcing the award. "For both men, no one was too high or too low to escape their wit, and we are all the better for it."

After learning about the prize, Leno said in a statement that he's honored and is a big fan of Twain's. He said "A Tale of Two Cities" is one of his favorite books. But apparently no one told Leno that the novel was written by Charles Dickens.

Chappelle's comeback lands at Radio City

Dave Chappelle's hesitant, slow-motion comeback reached a big tent crescendo when the comic performed a nearly two-hour set at Radio City Music Hall in New York that seemed to announce his long-awaited return.

Chappelle, who famously abandoned his acclaimed and lucrative Comedy Central show in 2005, has largely shunned the public eye since last year resuming his stand-up career. In his act Wednesday, Chappelle made up for lost time, catching up to a decade of racial and societal change, skipping from Herman Cain to Donald Sterling, his since-born children to his return from self-imposed exile.

"I'm just back out here earning enough money to disappear again," he said mid-set.

The show was the first in nearly a decade scheduled for Chappelle at Radio City, easily his biggest platform in years.

Other news

■ An actor who played a police officer on "The Shield" TV show pleaded not guilty to murder Wednesday in the death of his wife and was ordered to stay away from his two young sons. Michael Jace entered the plea through his attorneys.

■ Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony's divorce has been finalized nearly three years after the singers separated. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Sandoz finalized the couple's break-up Monday, awarding the former couple joint legal custody of their 6-year-old twins, records show.

■ Universal officials announced Wednesday that the new Harry Potter attraction at Universal Studios Park will open July 8. It will double the size of the Harry Potter landscape in the park.

From The Associated Press

'It's not cute if you follow Jennifer Lawrence — it's not cute if you're the second one!'

Lupita Nyong'o

The actress, 31, says she worried she would trip on her way to the podium to accept her Academy Award for best supporting actress. Lawrence tripped on her way to accept the award for best actress the year before.

AP



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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stars.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stars.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhein.sam@stars.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stars.com;
 +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell
 +49(0)173.115.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stars.com
 Sean Moors, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moors.sean@stars.com

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.pat@stars.com
 (+1)703.693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stars.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stars.com
 Sean Moors, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moors.sean@stars.com

CONTACT US

Washington

Phone: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stars.com

Additional contacts

stars.com/contacts

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Nixon's work mischaracterized

Andrew J. Bacevich made good points in his June 18 column ("Can Obama pull a Nixon with the crisis in Iraq?"), but his criticism of Richard Nixon was off the mark and leaves many worthy of criticism off the hook. Bacevich referred to Nixon's "cynicism" in ending the Vietnam War. Nixon wasn't president when the war ended, and this has something to do with the way the war ended. As Nixon's authority faded during the Watergate crisis, the U.S. Congress asserted itself, about which more later.

The Soviet Union paid the bill for North Vietnam's war effort. The Soviet purpose was to involve the United States in a big war on China's border in order to influence a "to the death" power struggle in China in favor of a faction Mao Zedong called the "pro Soviet group." The Soviet goal was to prevent a Sino/American rapprochement. The American "Best and Brightest" did not understand that there existed a possibility of a Sino/Soviet rift, or to them seemingly more far-fetched, a Sino/American rapprochement. Richard Nixon did understand the possibilities.

Nixon came into office with more than a half-million soldiers bogged down in Vietnam with no strategy, purpose or goal other than to try not to die, and a set of political circumstances bequeathed to him by Lyndon Johnson that made escalation to achieve battlefield victory an impossible option. He was determined to turn over the

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conduct of the war to an increasingly effective South Vietnamese military and ensure American longer term interests in Asia through rapprochement with China. Part of the deal would include Chinese interference with Soviet land access to Vietnam across China. This, coupled with American ability to cut off sea resupply through Cambodia or through Hanoi, would give the U.S. the ability to disrupt enemy strategic lines of communication.

Immediately, even as president-elect, Nixon instructed Walter Stoessel, U.S. ambassador in Poland, to contact the Chinese to press for early negotiations and the Chinese responded positively and publicly. As the Chinese and Americans began what Nixon termed a "delicate diplomatic minute," Soviet strategy failed.

In consequence, the Soviets changed their goal in Vietnam from stimulating an expanded conflict to victory for North

Vietnam. This was a Soviet form of "containment of China" to build a powerful pro-Soviet client state on China's southern border. As the United States withdrew combat forces from Vietnam, the Soviets altered the nature of their military support to include tanks, heavy artillery and other equipment needed for large conventional battles.

Nixon had planned a massive bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese armored buildup, but postponed it when John Dean went to the federal prosecutor in the Watergate affair. As he became increasingly enfeebled by Watergate, Congress asserted its ugly little head. Military appropriations in support of the South Vietnamese were cut by more than half in 1973-74 and by another 30 percent the following year.

The result was a South Vietnamese army that ran low on ammunition, fuel and spare parts. At the end the North Vietnamese had 900 tanks with all the ammunition, fuel and spare parts they could ever need. South Vietnam had 550 tanks, many of which were not operational due to lack of parts, and they were low on fuel and ammunition.

That North Vietnam won under these circumstances should not be surprising. But the victory had nothing to do with peoples' war or guerrilla warfare at all.

The United States, not Richard Nixon, abandoned Vietnam.

Col. F. Charles Parker IV (retired)
 Brussels

The Redskins name should go, but not because US government says so

By SALLY JENKINS

The Washington Post

NOW that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has struck a governmental blow against commodified ethnic insults, I'm nervous, because I may have "disparaged" somebody this morning when I buttered my toast. After I put away the Land O lakes butter with that Indian maiden logo on the box, I bit off a chew of Red Man tobacco and climbed into a Jeep Cherokee.

The Washington football club ought to ditch its slur of a trademark, voluntarily. It ought to do so on the grounds of basic decency and good taste, and, you'd hope, with an intelligent sense of history, context and place. If they won't do it willingly, then the rest of us and their colleagues in the NFL ought to embarrass, jeer and cajole them into it. But the method currently being employed, the mobilization of the U.S. government in favor of a correct sensibility, is wrong.

The split decision, 2-1, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark panel to cancel the Washington football club's trademark registration is hollow for three reasons. First, team management again failed the decency and intelligence test in response to it. Second, the practical effect is that they have to stop using the name, only that they might have trouble successfully barring others who use it. Third, and most important, government coercion is a lot more harmful than a lousy word.

Nobody would like to see a name change more than me, and no one has made more fun of owner Dan Snyder on this subject. But the USPTO decision came in a political climate that is queasy-making. It came after months of various Feds leaning on the team in ways that make it hard to feel a sense of victory. Sen. Marsha Cantwell, D-Wash., has threatened to examine the

NFL's tax-exempt status. The Federal Communications Commission has threatened to bring a criminal charge against the club for "indecentcy."

The trademark case is indirectly about policing speech. Denial of a trademark registration is not the same as banning the use of a word, no. But it came in concert with several other forms of government pressure, and that fact is concerning enough to put the ACLU and Fox's Megyn Kelly in the same camp over its free speech implications.

"At first blush, it might seem obvious that the USPTO should have the ability to deny registration to racist or vulgar trademarks," Gabe Rottman, a legislative counsel for the ACLU, wrote last December in an essay considering the team's trademark question. "But, as with all things free speech, who gets to decide what's racist or vulgar? That's right, the government, with all its ill-equipped to make these kinds of determinations."

You don't really want government agencies to become the arbiter of acceptable words and images. You really don't. The main reason you don't is because, like it or not, what's offensive is subjective. It creates "a morass of uncertainty," Rottman wrote. Consider how many offensive violations someone could find in one episode of "The Family Guy." Or "Game of Thrones," or "Orange Is the New Black."

"Being offended is the natural consequence of leaving one's home," Fran Lebowitz wrote. She added, "I do not like after-shave lotion, adults who roller-skate, children who speak French, or anyone who is unduly tan. I do not, however, go around enacting legislation and putting up signs."

In his dissent from the trademark decision, USPTO panelist Marc Bergsman observed that "the context" in which a word is used "changes the perception of the term." For some people the word "Redskins" has

lost all of its vicious old meaning and represents their beloved Sonny Jurgensen and Billy Kilmer; for others it's a hate term. Personally, I find it distasteful in all contexts. But how is a bureaucracy supposed to effectively arbitrate its "real" meaning without a lot of unintended consequences and restrictions?

Trademark law prohibits the registering of names that "may disparage" individuals or groups, or "bring them into contempt or disrepute." But in actuality American Indians are constantly targeted with contempt by corporate America, and we don't even notice it. As Thomas King observes in his withering book, "The Inconvenient Indian," "Sometimes you can only watch and marvel at the ways in which the Dead Indian has been turned into products."

Indians have been turned into cars, and underwear brands, and Crazy Horse malt liquor, and the football trademark case hardly rectifies the problem King identifies, which is that Americans have no respect for their own antiquities, and don't recognize how badly they continue to junk and trash them.

"Dead Indians are dignified, noble, silent, suitably garbed," King writes. "And dead. Live Indians are invisible, unruly, disappointing. And breathing. One is a romantic reminder of a heroic but fictional past. The other is simply an unpleasant, contemporary surprise."

That's got the ring of absolute truth to it. But no governmental traducing can put that epiphany into the heart of a team owner or the league commissioner, or a fan. There are competing priorities here: anti-disparagement vs. absolute free speech. Trouble is, if you over police the latter you might stifle King's ability to write so powerfully about the former. He actually toyed with entitling his book "Pesky Redskins."

Sally Jenkins is a Washington Post sports columnist.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Resist new combat role in Iraq
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Given the United States' 11 years of involvement in Iraq as an invader, occupier and, most recently, facilitator and ally, it is difficult for the government and Americans to watch what is happening there with equanimity.

The United States withdrew its forces from Iraq at the end of 2011, with what it said was a democratically elected government in place and with ample armed forces poised to defend that government, which America had trained and equipped. That is, of course, the strategy that the United States has also laid out for its departure from Afghanistan, at this point scheduled for the end of 2016, after 15 years there.

The edifice that Washington set up and supported in Iraq, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, has fallen apart, in a heap of sectarianism, regionalism, non-inclusion, corruption and just plain narrow-minded stupidity. The regional powers — Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arabs — have backed their respective horses in the race, the governing Shiites and the challenging Sunnis, pulling the country of Iraq apart.

The likely outcome now will be a Kurdish north, a Sunni heartland probably including at least part of Baghdad, and a Shiite south — the three pieces perhaps working to a degree under the shell of the former Iraq, the one that existed prior to the U.S. invasion in 2003.

At this juncture there are key points for President Barack Obama and his team to bear in mind.

First, Obama is probably right to put a small number of U.S. troops into the Baghdad Green Zone, to keep the 5,500 American officials still in Iraq — astonishingly — from being slaughtered or taken hostage by a victorious Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or a desperate al-Maliki government. He must stick to his position that U.S. troops will not become re-involved in combat in Iraq.

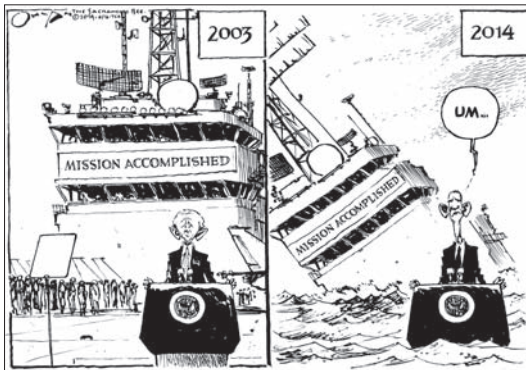
Pushing Obama to use troops to save the al-Maliki government will be U.S. parties with commercial interests and investments in Iraq's status quo, some of it through the sale of arms and other products, and those who still feel committed to the previous strategy and don't want to admit that it has failed. Obama needs to resist influence by these parties, which are unable to adapt to the changes on the ground.

An ironic, but basically positive outcome of the new situation is that it is compelling the United States to consult with Iran on matters of common interest in Iraq. This is a long overdue development, even though the subject may be how to save the skin of the failed Shiite government and American influence in the region.

Best to have no tired truckers
New Britain (Conn.) Herald

At the same time that Congress is considering whether to relax work rules for freight haulers, a truck driver's lack of sleep is being blamed for the highway crash that injured comedian Tracy Morgan and killed Connecticut resident James "Jimmy Jack" McNair.

Wal-Mart trucker Kevin Roper apparently failed to slow for traffic ahead on the New Jersey Turnpike and then swerved to



avoid a crash.

Instead, his rig smashed into the back of Morgan's chauffeured limo bus, killing comedian McNair and injuring Morgan and three others.

Authorities said that Roper hadn't slept for more than 24 hours before the accident.

This comes at a time when a proposed change to federal regulations would effectively let drivers put in as many as 82 hours a week behind the wheel.

The change is backed by the trucking industry and opposed by safety advocates and the Obama administration.

An amendment that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, would repeal a requirement that drivers take a 34-hour break, including no driving from 1 to 5 a.m. on two consecutive days.

"This regulation dumps concentrated amounts of commercial traffic onto the highway system at 5:01 a.m. Monday, when people are trying to get to their offices and their businesses ... and deliver children to schools," said Phil Byrd, chairman of the American Trucking Associations.

The senator and trucking industry officials said it is safer for truckers to drive at night when there is less traffic.

Those who oppose the change point out that nearly 4,000 people die in large truck crashes each year, and driver fatigue is a leading factor, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Do you want to share the road with a tired trucker? We didn't think so.

Measles kick, so we must act
The (Greenville, N.C.) Daily Reflector

A disease once on its way to oblivion apparently is on the rise — and headed this way, say health officials locally and nationwide. So forget rumors you might have heard about vaccinations and make sure you and your children have had one.

That's the message coming this week from health officials about a resurgence in cases of measles nationwide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this month that measles has reached a 20-year high, and a big reason for the increase is a decrease in the number of people being vaccinated, especially children.

Pitt County Health Director John Morrow told The Daily Reflector that with measles' virtual disappearance in years past, parents today are not aware of its potentially terrible effects.

That's one reason they might not worry much about making sure their children receive the vaccine that would protect them.

Morrow also cited a report that originated in England years ago as another reason for the decline in vaccinations. The report suggested that some of the ingredients in the vaccine could cause other childhood illnesses, including autism.

The researcher behind this report had falsified data, Morrow said, but by the time that became broadly known the rumor that the vaccine was harmful had "gone viral."

As a result, the threat of a measles comeback today is real. In the last five months, measles has caused more U.S. illnesses than in any entire year since 1996, said the CDC. The disease spreads easily through the air and in a closed room infected droplets can linger for up to two hours after a sick person leaves.

There have been 16 outbreaks producing 397 cases of the highly contagious respiratory disease in 20 states, including nearby Virginia and Tennessee ...

So vigilance and awareness are in order to head it off, and it's certainly not too soon to vaccinate any who need protection from this unwanted visitor from the past.

Let's just hope it's not too late.

Immigration reform took a hit
The Salt Lake Tribune

America needs immigration reform. Polls show a large majority of Americans want immigration reform.

That reform, to be worthy of the name, must include a clear path to citizenship — or, at the very least, legal status — for the more than 11 million human beings who now live in this country without benefit of proper paperwork. A recent Pew Research Center poll puts the number of Americans who favor a path to full citizenship at 76 percent.

But because he was considered insufficiently hostile to just that kind of reform, the second-ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives was thrown out of office this month by a handful of voters in Virginia.

So even though none of Utah's Republican members of Congress currently faces a challenge from their right wing, our own delegates are even more unlikely than they were before to push through an immigration reform bill this year.

Which means it may never happen at all.

Rep. Eric Cantor, House majority leader and widely considered the heir apparent to Speaker John Boehner, lost his primary election to a hitherto unknown economics professor who overcame the incumbent's huge advantage in money and name recognition by accusing him of, among other things, being in favor of "amnesty" for undocumented immigrants.

It wasn't true. If anything, Cantor bore a lot of the credit — or blame — for bottling up the Senate-passed immigration reform bill that includes a path to citizenship. That bill had a lot of bipartisan support, including from Utah's Orrin Hatch.

But that wasn't any deterrent to the right wing echo chamber and its talk radio ringmasters whose screeching helped get Cantor bounced.

It is apparently what Utah Republicans such as Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Chris Stewart fear when they resist the entreaties of such mainstream stalwarts as the Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Restaurant Association and Utah Manufacturers Association. Those groups, and others, met with the congressmen last week to explain how a lack of reform hurts businesses, consumers and the whole of the state economy.

They rang up a big No Sale for their efforts. Stewart basically brushed the groups off by telling them he didn't see that his constituents really cared that much. Which may be true.

Immigration is one of those issues where a vast majority, who favor one path of action but don't feel vehemently about it, lose out to a much smaller, but more vocal, fringe.

That fringe ended one political career this month in Virginia. Making sure they don't go next now becomes the priority of other Republicans. Including, sadly, most of them in Utah.

Rebuff Obama's war on coal
Minot (N.D.) Daily News

It has become perfectly clear that President Barack Obama's goal is to shut down coal-fired power plants — whether doing so is essential in battling climate change or not. If he is successful, tens of millions of American families will pay much higher electric bills. And hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs, all to allow Obama to get his way.

Obama's schedule for wrecking the coal industry and driving up electricity prices has been obvious. First, his Environmental Protection Agency adopted rules effectively banning construction of new coal-fired power plants in the United States. He did that against the will of the people, as expressed by a majority of members of the Senate, who refused to vote in favor of his "cap and trade" scheme.

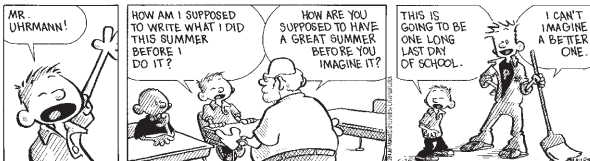
Utilities quickly revealed plans to close hundreds of older coal-fired power stations. Most will be replaced with natural gas facilities. Then, last month, Obama decided to administer the coup de grace. The EPA revealed new rules that will make it virtually impossible to operate existing coal-fired power plants.

Even Obama's administration admits that will drive electric bills up by 20 to 30 percent for many Americans. More objective analysts say bills may go up by double that amount or more. Business analysts say the president's agenda will cost the nation at least 500,000 jobs.

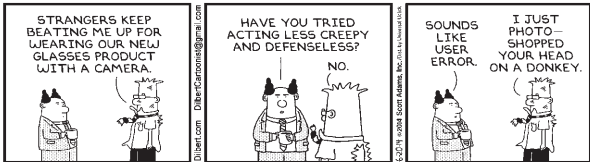
If technology existed to retrofit coal-burning power plants to comply with EPA limits, things would be different. But it does not. And that is part of Obama's plan. While he has been throwing away billions of dollars on so-called "alternative" energy such as solar power, Obama has been slashing federal funding for coal research. It is all part of a plan, one certainly crafted more carefully than many White House initiatives, such as foreign policy.

Unless Democratic members of the Senate begin representing their constituents, Obama will win in his vendetta against coal — while tens of millions of Americans lose.

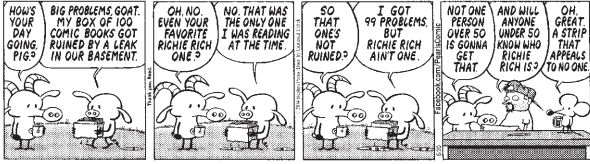
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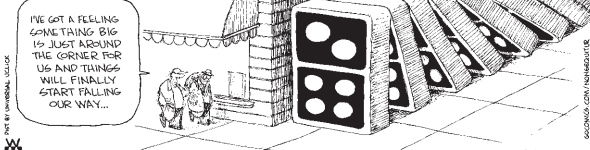
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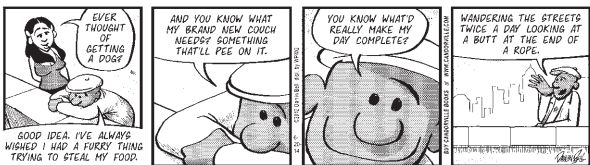
Pearls Before Swine



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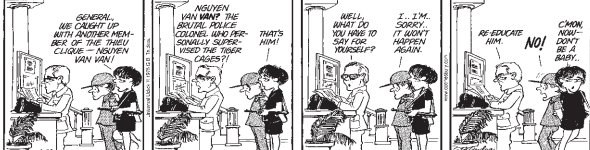
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- GPS offering
- Confab
- Imperfection
- Kimono closer
- Anger
- Portrayal
- Ohioans
- Wheelbase terminus
- Posture
- Heavy weight
- Surprise cries
- Cave somewhat
- Hackneyed
- Cudgel
- Whammy
- Select from a group
- Martini ingredient
- Tarzan's mate
- Chowed down
- Journal
- Fourth-down tactics
- Charlie who visited Willy Wonka
- Can material
- Past
- Thespians' field
- TV's Judge —
- Cowboy
- On the briny
- Jannings of old movies
- Big brother

DOWN

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- Appointment
- Proof abbr.
- Fast time?
- Former mates
- Wound cover
- Ballet frill
- Sir — Guinness
- Ginormous
- Retire
- Overthrow group
- Journey segment
- Deli side
- Whitewater vessel
- Unspoken
- Mideast nation
- Protuberance
- Acceptable
- Predicament
- Gis' entertainment grp.
- Lair
- Ms. Thurman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	A	G	S	W	O	M	B	A	M	A
I	O	N	E	A	L	O	E	N	U	B
A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	S	A	C
R	E	W	O	R	D	E	I	G	H	T
	N	O		A	L	T	A	R		
C	H	A	D	E	M	O	M	A	C	K
B	O	N		M	A	D		M	O	O
S	W	A	P	U	Z	I	S	S	T	S
			L	A	P	S	E	B	E	
D	O	Y	L	E		S	A	L	A	M
A	L	S		A	N	A	T	H	E	M
M	I	T		R	E	D	O	C	E	L
P	O	S		L	O	O	P	T	R	E

6-20

CRYPTOQUIP

FDGSR RVS NDVHS PSFVPHH

ZPS HMVPSK NGMDGU ZU

VRRGFGZE KZMZ FVEESFMGVU:

ZU ZPFDGLZE ZPFDPLGE.

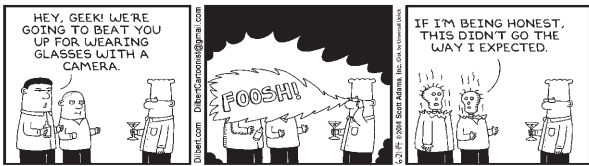
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHILE OUT CAMPING, THE GROUP OF BLOOM ARRANGERS WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO START A FLORIST FIRE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals A

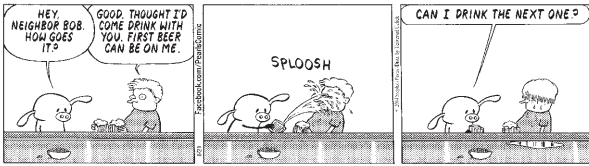
Frazz



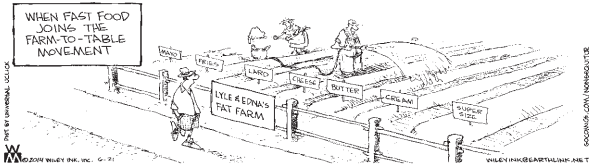
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



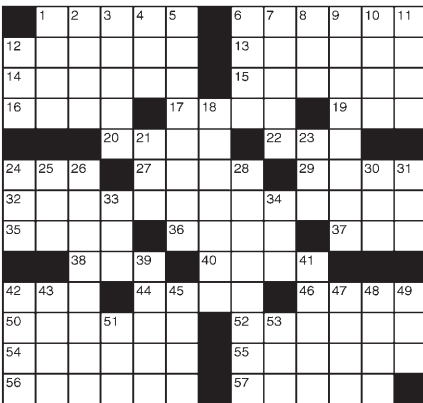
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Jewelry and such
- 6 Form of breakfast cereal
- 12 Corporate shark
- 13 Perversely funny
- 14 Leonid's predecessor
- 15 Spin
- 16 Singer Laine
- 17 Stalk
- 19 Apiece
- 20 Netting
- 22 "Caught ya!"
- 24 Actress Gardner
- 27 Links
- 29 "Diana" singer
- 32 Setting for "Castro"
- 35 Verve
- 36 Authentic
- 37 Coquettish
- 38 Brutus' best bowling score?
- 40 "Exodus" author
- 42 Oklahoma city
- 44 Emcee
- 45 Basin accessory
- 50 Four-time Winston Cup winner
- 52 Gorge
- 54 Whole
- 55 Fixes texts
- 56 Trusty horses
- 57 Trio in a Christmas carol

DOWN

- 1 \$50 Monopoly payment
- 2 Facebook option
- 3 Figure of speech
- 4 Profit
- 5 More verdant, perhaps
- 6 Ax
- 7 Bakery lure
- 8 Deterioration
- 9 Terror-stricken
- 10 Late hours, in "Variety"
- 11 Computer brand
- 12 GOP org.
- 18 Minotaur slayer
- 21 List-ending abbr.
- 23 Chapeau
- 24 Gorilla
- 25 Encyc. binding abbr.
- 26 Priced separately
- 28 Shatner show
- 30 "Kitchy- —!"
- 31 Whatever number
- 32 Letterhead abbr.
- 33 Foreman foe
- 39 Musical combo?
- 41 With 42-Down, "All the world's a stage" subject
- 42 See 41-Down
- 43 "I'd advise otherwise"
- 45 Change for a five
- 47 Pinion
- 48 Remnants
- 49 In medias —
- 51 Half a casino pair
- 53 "— Blue?"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-21

CRYPTOQUIP

KL IZQ JYRYG YVG UGYGYBJ
L-R-E-R RMC N-K-M-Y-Z KM
R AGG, K AGUKGEG IZQ'EG
JNGUUGC YVG AGRMJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHIEF FOE WHOSE RECORDS ARE STORED WITHIN AN OFFICIAL DATA COLLECTION: AN ARCHIVAL ARCHIVAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Y

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*2 Transfers from Disney Mobile on SoftBank, WILLCOM, E-mobile are not eligible.

*3 Unlimited Packet Data Flat, Unlimited Packet Data Flat for Smart Phones, Flat-rate Data Plan for Simple Smart Phones, Flat-rate Data plan for 4G, Flat-rate Data Plan for 4G LTE.

(Requirements are different from the statement above when you purchase SoftBank 3G cell phones.)

○Some restrictions apply. Please ask shop crew for more details.



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MLB

Dodgers' Kershaw throws no-hitter

Pitcher almost hurls perfect game, duplicates teammate's earlier feat

By JOE RESNICK
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A pair of Cy Young Awards, three straight major league ERA titles, a 20-win season — and now a no-hitter.

There isn't much more for Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw to accomplish besides winning a World Series ring.

Kershaw dominated the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday night, striking out a career-high 15 and allowing his only baserunner on a throwing error by shortstop Hanley Ramirez in Los Angeles' 8-0 victory.

Kershaw's gem gave the Dodgers both no-hitters in the majors this season. Josh Beckett tossed one May 25 in Philadelphia.

"I am so amazed," Kershaw said. "Beckett told me he was going to teach me how to do that, so I have Josh to thank."

Cheered on by his wife in the stands, Kershaw (7-2) retired his first 18 batters before Corey Dickerson led off the seventh with a slow bouncer to Ramirez. His throw on the run went wide past first baseman Adrian Gonzalez for a two-base error — ending any chance for a perfect game.

But that was it for the Rockies against the 26-year-old Kershaw, who shrugged off the miscue and came on-so-close to pitching the 22nd perfect in the majors since 1900.

"He had command of everything. I told him between innings: 'It's not fair when you have a devastating slider and a devastating curveball in the same night,'" Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis said. "And when he does that, nights like this are really possible."

One batter after Dickerson reached base, rookie third baseman Miguel Rojas backhanded Troy Tulowitzki's grounder behind the bag and let fly with a strong throw to first that Gonzalez — a three-time Gold Glove winner — scooped out of the dirt to keep the no-hitter intact.

And with the crowd of 46,069 on its feet and roaring, Kershaw made quick work of the Rockies in the ninth.

DJ LeMahieu grounded out to first base on the first pitch and Charlie Culberson hit a lazy fly to right field on the next one. Dickerson then saw four straight strikes and went down swinging.

The only pitcher to have more strikeouts in a no-hitter was Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, according to STATS.

"I've seen some great pitching performances, but it's tough to be any better than Kershaw," Colorado manager Walt Weiss said.

After his 107th and final pitch, a beam-

Multiple no-hitters

A list of teams with two or more no-hitters in a season, with name of team, date, pitcher, opponent and scores (y=denotes perfect game):

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston Red Sox
May 5, 1904, Cy Young vs. Philadelphia, 3-0
Aug. 17, 1904, Jesse Tannehill vs. Chicago, 6-0
June 21, 1916, George Foster vs. New York, 2-0
Aug. 30, 1916, Dutch Leonard vs. St. Louis, 4-0
June 26, 1962, Earl Wilson vs. Los Angeles Angels, 2-0
Aug. 1, 1962, Bill Monbouquette vs. Chicago, 1-0
Cleveland Indians
Sept. 18, 1908, Robert Rhoades vs. Boston, 2-1
Oct. 2, 1908, Addie Joss vs. Chicago, 1-0
New York Yankees
July 12, 1951, Allie Reynolds at Cleveland, 1-0
Sept. 28, 1951, Allie Reynolds vs. Boston, 8-0
Detroit Tigers
May 15, 1952, Virgil Trucks vs. Washington, 1-0
Aug. 25, 1952, Virgil Trucks at New York, 1-0
California Angels
May 15, 1973, Nolan Ryan at Kansas City, 3-0
July 15, 1973, Nolan Ryan at Detroit, 6-0
Seattle Mariners
June 8, 2012, Kevin Millwood (6 innings), Charlie Furbush (7), Stephen Pryor (7), Lucas Luetge (8), Brandon Lesque (8), Tom Wilhelmson (9) vs. L.A. Dodgers, 1-0
Aug. 15, 2012, Felix Hernandez vs. Tampa Bay, 1-0

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Pittsburgh Pirates
Aug. 23, 1907, Harry Camnitz, at New York, 1-0
Sept. 20, 1907, Nicholas Maddox vs. Brooklyn, 2-1
Cincinnati Reds
June 11, 1938, Johnny Vander Meer vs. Boston, 3-0
June 15, 1938, Johnny Vander Meer, at Brooklyn, 6-0
Brooklyn Dodgers/L.A. Dodgers
May 12, 1956, Carl Erskine, vs. New York, 3-0
Sept. 25, 1956, Sal Maglie, vs. Philadelphia, 5-0
May 25, 2014, Josh Beckett, at Philadelphia, 6-0
June 18, 2014, Clayton Kershaw, vs. Colorado, 8-0
Milwaukee Braves
Aug. 18, 1960, Lew Burdette vs. Philadelphia, 1-0
Sept. 16, 1960, Warren Spahn vs. Philadelphia, 4-0
Chicago Cubs
April 16, 1972, Burt Hooton, vs. Philadelphia, 4-0
Sept. 2, 1972, Milt Pappas, vs. San Diego, 8-0
Philadelphia Phillies
May 29, 2010, Roy Halladay, at Florida, 1-0
Oct. 6, 2010, Roy Halladay, vs. Cincinnati, 4-0, NLDS.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

ing Kershaw raised his arms above his head and waited for a huge hug from Ellis. "I started tearing up out there in the ninth inning, just sitting out there catching and watching him throw after he got those first two outs," Ellis said. "It was pretty special."

"It's something you never forget," he added. "It's a game I'll watch on replays with my kids forever."

Months later, as he was about to be interviewed on the field, Kershaw was doubted by teammates with two large buckets. The left-hander with the big-breaking curve also got a big hug from his wife.

Kershaw, who signed a \$215 million, seven-year contract in the offseason — a record for a pitcher — gave Los Angeles sports fans their second memorable thrill in just one year.

The Kings won the Stanley Cup at home last Friday night, their second NHL championship in three years, and brought the



KYUSUNG GONG, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw celebrates his no-hitter against Colorado following Wednesday's game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

famous trophy to Dodger Stadium on Tuesday for a pregame ceremony.

The next night, Kershaw took over.

The only other time the Dodgers pitched two no-hitters in one season was 1956, when the team was still in Brooklyn. Carl Erskine and Sal Maglie turned the trick that year.

Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax, who tossed four no-hitters, pitched the franchise's lone perfect game on Sept. 9, 1965, against the Chicago Cubs.

"I guess I haven't really thought of the ramifications of throwing one of these things, but it's definitely special company," Kershaw said. "It's pretty cool."

It was the 22nd no-hitter in Dodgers history — more than any other team — and the first at home since Ramon Martinez's 2-0 gem against the Marlins on July 14, 1995.

"His stuff was phenomenal tonight. I think all the guys said that. We tip our hats to him," Dickerson said.

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AUTO RACING

NASCAR's 'Big 3' keep rolling

Hendrick's on cruise control with Johnson, Gordon and Earnhardt

By Noah Trister
The Associated Press

The NASCAR season is less than half over and already it is fair to ask if anyone can catch Hendrick Motorsports.

After five straight Sprint Cup victories — including three by defending champion Jimmie Johnson — Hendrick now holds the top three spots in the points standings, and even rival driver Brad Keselowski concedes that when it comes to engines, at least, nothing is likely to change.

"We all have got a little bit of work to do because it's pretty obvious that the Hendrick engines are way ahead of everyone else," said Keselowski, who drives for Roger Penske. "Usually that's not something you catch up with in one season. As far ahead as they are right now, they're probably a full season ahead of everyone."

Johnson's victory at Michigan on Sunday was the fifth in a row for Hendrick in a points-paying Cup race, and that doesn't tell the whole story of how dominant the team was. Kasey Kahne, points leader Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. also finished in the

top seven for Hendrick.

Even other Chevrolet drivers also benefited from using Hendrick motors. Kevin Harvick (Stewart-Haas) finished second and eighth.

"I think we were a little off early in the year, and we've been kind of clicking here lately," owner Rick Hendrick said. "Everybody is really putting out a lot of effort right now, and it's paying off."

This is the third time Hendrick has won five straight races. The team accomplished the feat twice in 2007, including a six-race streak. Johnson, of course, has been the series' dominant driver in recent years, with six Cup titles to his credit. He won the championship last year and has surged back into second place in the standings with three wins in the last four races.

Gordon, meanwhile, is atop the standings at age 42, and Earnhardt has two victories this season, his four-year winless stretch from 2008-12 now a distant memory.

"I just know our cars are fast," Johnson said. "The cars are all pretty equal aero-wise with what the rules are from NASCAR, but I'm not good enough to

pick it out and tell you that we've got people beat in just one area. It's a team effort. Our engine shop is very strong. We've always known that."

Keselowski won the Cup championship for Penske in 2012, so he's among the drivers best positioned to challenge Hendrick's impressive group. After two straight second-place finishes, he was third at Michigan.

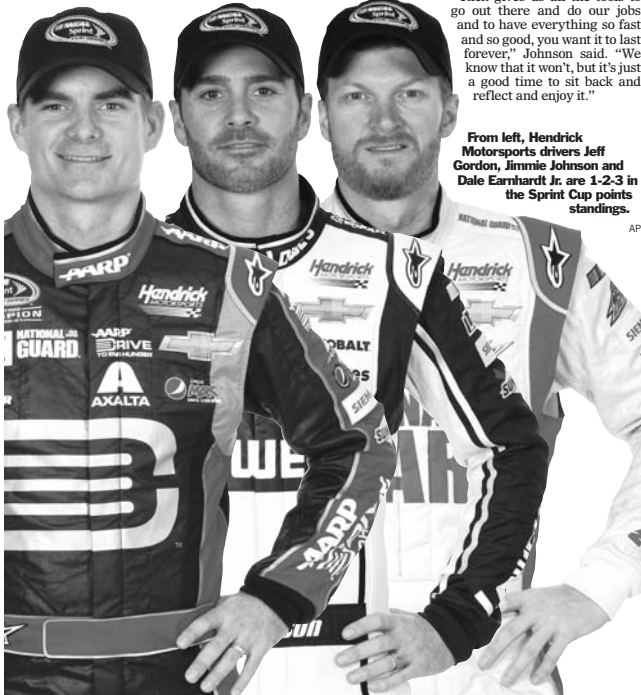
Although he expects Hendrick will continue to have the best engines, that doesn't mean all hope is lost for everyone else.

"I think the way this year's package has kind of come together, where we are right now is where we're going to be for the remainder of the year. You might see some small gains from some teams but I don't see anything significant coming," Keselowski said. "I think right now the Penske cars are probably the best when it comes to balanced track to track. The Hendrick cars are probably the best where it takes power to run."

Michigan may have been a sign of things to come — Johnson, Gordon and Earnhardt in contention, with Keselowski and the rest of the drivers doing their best to keep up.

"Rick gives us all the tools to go out there and do our jobs and to have everything so fast and so good, you want it to last forever," Johnson said. "We know that it won't, but it's just a good time to sit back and reflect and enjoy it."

From left, Hendrick Motorsports drivers Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. are 1-2-3 in the Sprint Cup points standings.



Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Toyota-Save Mart 350 at Sonoma, Calif.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m. Sunday, CET; 4 a.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: Sonoma Raceway (road course, 1.99 miles).
Race distance: 218.9 miles, 110 laps.

Last year: Martin Truex Jr. snapped a 218-race winless streak to give Michael Waltrip Racing its second straight victory at the track. Clint Bowyer won in 2012.

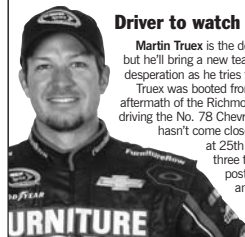
Last week: Six-time series champion Jimmie Johnson won at Michigan International Speedway for his third victory in the last four races.

Next race: Quaker State 400, June 28, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.
Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	537
2. Jimmie Johnson	522
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	514
4. Matt Kenseth	513
5. Brad Keselowski	490
6. Kyle Edwards	462
7. Joey Logano	454
8. Kyle Larson	454
9. Kevin Harvick	447
10. Kyle Busch	446
11. Ryan Newman	440
12. Danny Hemlin	435
13. Paul Menard	420
14. Clint Bowyer	417
15. Greg Biffle	409
16. Tony Stewart	402
17. Austin Dillon	400
18. Brian Vickers	394
19. Kasey Kahne	391
20. Jamie McMurray	384

Driver to watch



Martin Truex is the defending champion at Sonoma, but he'll bring a new team, client car and new sense of desperation as he tries to force his way into the Chase. Truex was booted from the Chase last season in the aftermath of the Richmond scandal. In his first season driving the No. 78 Chevrolet for Furniture Row Racing, Truex hasn't come close to sniffing a checkered flag, buried at 25th in the points standings with only three top-10 finishes and no top-fives. He posted consecutive top-10's at Dover and Pocono before an early race accident last week at Michigan knocked him out of the race.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Gardner Denver 200 at Elkhart Lake, Wis.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8:45 p.m. Saturday, CET; 3:45 a.m. Sunday, JKT.

Track: Road America (road course, 4.048 miles).

Race distance: 202.4 miles, 50 laps.

Last year: AJ Allmendinger won for owner Roger Penske, holding off Justin Allgaier on the second attempt at a green-white-checkered finish.

Last week: Sprint Cup driver Paul Menard won at Michigan; Sam Hornish Jr. was second.

Next race: John R. Elliott Hero Campaign 300, June 27, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.
Online: www.nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: UNOH 225, June 26, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Last week: Darrell Wallace Jr. raced to his second career victory, holding off German Quirgo at Gateway in Madison, Ill.

Online: www.nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLOW DRAG RACING

This week: New England Nationals at Epping, N.H.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 1 p.m. Monday (delayed), CET; 8 a.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: New England Dragway and Motorsports Park.

Last year: Courtney Force beat father John Force in the Funny Car final. Spencer Massey won in Top Fuel, Allen Johnson in Pro Stock, and John Hall in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last week: Shawn Langdon raced to

his first victory of the year in Top Fuel, beating points leader Doug Kalitta at Bristol, Tenn. Tommy Johnson Jr. won in Funny Car final and Eric Enders-Spence topped the NHRA standings.

Next event: Route 66 NHRA Nationals, June 26-29, Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: www.nhra.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Austrian Grand Prix at Spielberg, Austria.

Track: Red Bull Ring (road course, 2.69 miles).

Race distance: 190.1 miles, 71 laps.

Last race: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Canadian Grand Prix on June 9 for his first F1 victory, ending Mercedes' winning streak at six.

Next race: British Grand Prix, July 6, Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, England.
Online: www.formula1.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next races: Grand Prix of Houston, June 28 and 29.

Last race: Ed Carpenter won at Texas Motor Speedway on June 7, holding off Will Power in a two-lap shootout.
Online: www.indycar.com

OTHER SERIES

ARCA RACING
Akron 250, Saturday, Elko Speedway, Elko, Minn. **Online:** arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Sprint Car: Friday, River Cities Speedway, Grand Forks, N.D.; Saturday, 1.94 Speedway, Fergus Falls, Minn. **Online:** worldofoutlaws.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB
Sprint Car: Friday, Amsoil Speedway, Superior, Wis.; Saturday, Deer Creek Speedway, Spring Valley, Minn.; Sunday, Angell Park Speedway, Sun Prairie, Wis. **Online:** usaracing.com

Series capsules
by The Associated Press

US WOMEN'S OPEN



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Eleven-year-old Lucy Li watches her shot from the second fairway Wednesday during a practice round for the U.S. Women's Open at Pinehurst, N.C.

No pressure

11-year-old qualifier Lucy Li just trying to have some fun

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

WITH pigtaails and plenty of giggles, Lucy Li just wants to have fun like any 11-year-old girl.

Except that she's playing the biggest event in women's golf.

Li, a sixth-grader from the Bay Area who doesn't appear to be the least bit overwhelmed by the attention around her, became the youngest qualifier in U.S. Women's Open history when she shot 68 at Half Moon Bay last month to win her sectional by seven shots.

She celebrated by having dinner at her favorite restaurant and watching "The Amazing Spiderman 2."

Now it's time for the amazing Lucy Li show.

"She looks so darn cute," said Michelle Wie, who didn't make it to her first Women's Open until she was 13. "I was like, 'I don't think I looked that cute when I was 11.' But she just looks so excited, so wide-eyed. ... And I'm just really so excited for her to be out. It's a memory that will last her a lifetime. What other 11-year-old can say that they played in the U.S. Open at Pinehurst? And she got to see the men play, too."

Life is moving at warp speed for little Lucy Li.

She only became serious about golf four years ago when she set up shop in

Did you know

Beverly Klass is the youngest player in U.S. Women's Open history. She was 10 when she played in 1967, before there was qualifying.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

Miami to work with Jim McLean. Just two months ago, the precocious 11-year-old with a mouth full of braces won her age division in the inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt Championship at Augusta National. And now she's at Pinehurst No. 2, ready to take on the course where Martin Kaymer won the U.S. Open on Sunday.

"It's awesome, right?" she said. "I mean, Pinehurst and Augusta National in like two months, I mean, that's just amazing. It's mind-blowing for me. It's been awesome, because it's been ... I mean, the food is great and it's been a lot of fun. I've made a lot of friends."

There's something about the U.S. Women's Open in the North Carolina sandhills that attracts all the kids.

Morgan Pressel qualified when she was 12 and had just turned 13 when the Women's Open was down the street at Pine Needles in 2001. Lexi Thompson qualified and played at 12 when it returned to Pine Needles in 2007.

"The perfect week? I just want to go out there and have fun and play the best I can, and I really don't care about the outcome," Li said. "I want to have fun and learn. I want to learn a lot from these great players."

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WORLD CUP



EDUARDO VERDUGO/AP

The Trejo family from Los Angeles poses outside of the Arena Castelao before Tuesday's match between Brazil and Mexico in Fortaleza, Brazil. A great number of fans that have come to Brazil to cheer for Mexico do not come from Mexico but rather from cities in the U.S.

Mexican-Americans boost el Tri's fan base in Brazil

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — The number of fans cheering Mexico at the World Cup has taken observers in Brazil by surprise. But talk to those waving the green-white-and-red, and it becomes clear that when the tournament ends, many will return home not to Mexico, but to the United States.

It's unknown how many of the 200,000 World Cup tickets sold to people in the U.S. were bought by fans of Mexico. The number, however, certainly has boosted the 34,000 who purchased tickets from Mexico itself, according to sales figures released by international soccer's governing body.

For Mexico's first match at Dunas stadium in Natal, the Mexican Soccer Federation expected about 15,000 fans would be there to cheer for "el Tri," as Mexico's team is known. But by the time the team claimed its 1-0 victory over Cameroon, surprised local media speculated there were at least twice that number.

On Tuesday, when Mexico tied Brazil 0-0, the number of fans wearing green or red in Castelao Stadium was large and passionately loud against the World Cup host.

"That's the talk here," said Juan Chacon, a Mexico supporter who lives in Texas. "We're asking each other, 'Where did so many come from?'"

The United States has seen steady growth in its Hispanic population, which now makes up 17 percent of the total population, or 53 million people. About two-thirds of those trace their roots

'For us to root for Mexico is like eating tortillas. You've got to do it.'

Marcos Mijares
Mexico fan

Per-capita annual income in the U.S. is \$47,000, compared to \$9,000 in Mexico.

Many of the soccer fans traveling from the U.S. are part of the last great wave of Mexican migration to the United States, which spanned the 1990s to the mid-2000s. Others are second-generation Mexicans who grew up rooting for the Mexican team at a time when Team USA was still unknown.

Chacon, for one, was born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, but grew up and studied in El Paso, Texas. He and two American friends traveled to see Mexico in both Natal and Fortaleza, where the team faced Brazil.

While he speaks Spanish with his friends and with Mexicans he has met during his trip through Brazil, it's not always smooth. "All of a sudden, out comes the Spanish," he said, such as when he's asked what he does for a living.

"How do you say 'customer service'?" he wondered, before exclaiming with relief, "¡Soporte al cliente!"

to Mexico. At the same time, strong earning power in the United States makes it easier for Mexicans and Mexican-Americans living there to afford the trip to Brazil.

Francisco Trejo and his two sons traveled to Fortaleza from Los Angeles. "As with us, there are many more friends and acquaintances here who have [U.S.] nationality, but the truth is we came to support Mexico completely."

Daniel Hawkins, a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who has studied the sociology of sports, said the support for Team Mexico is only natural.

Mexican-Americans, he said, "love the U.S. They would cheer for them, but they have this loyalty to Mexico. It's a cultural thing of identifying with your home culture in addition to being American."

That sentiment was on display by the Dallas chapter of a fan club called Pancho Villa's Army, which formed last year to support the Mexican team. At a beach in Fortaleza in northeast Brazil, members of the group posed with a banner showing the Mexican seal against an outline of the Dallas skyline.

"Historically, Mexican-Americans have always been huge Mexico soccer fans. It gets passed on by our culture," said club founder Sergio Tristan. "The USA soccer team is relatively new. So, there are a lot of people in my generation that, now that we have money in our pockets, we are going to travel with our team."

Marcos Mijares, a 42-year-old Atlanta resident, said he roots for Mexico even though he's lived in the United States for more than 10 years.

"For us, to root for Mexico is like eating tortillas," he said. "You've got to do it."

Argentina focuses on stubborn Iran

By FRANK GRIFFITHS
The Associated Press

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — After stuttering in the early stages of its opening match, Argentina's attack will need to use all its talent to find a way to break through Iran's stubborn defense in its second Group F game.

Lionel Messi's remarks earlier this week about the team's tactics in the first match sparked speculation that Argentina's captain wasn't seeing eye-to-eye with coach Alejandro Sabella.

Whatever formation Argentina uses against Iran on Saturday, the South Americans will need to be patient against a lineup that held Nigeria to a 0-0 draw in its first match.

"All of the matches have their difficulties and it's our job to overcome them," backup goalkeeper Agustín Oriol said.

Messi said Argentina made too many mistakes against Bosnia-Herzegovina despite winning 2-1, starting the match with two attackers instead of three and playing a 5-3-2 formation in the first half. Messi prefers a 4-3-3 and Argentine media reports said he and other players insisted at halftime that Sabella needed to change tactics. The coach made the change, and speculation emerged there was a growing rift between Messi and Sabella.

But other players sought to downplay any serious disagreement between the pair.

"Messi gave his opinion, which he is entitled to, and you shouldn't go looking for things that aren't there," said Mariano Andujar, another backup keeper.

A win for Argentina against Iran will give the South Americans a firm grip on Group H, but Iran's defense is a potential



Argentina vs. Iran
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Saturday CET
12:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

impediment.

Iran coach Carlos Queiroz wasn't happy with his team being labeled as defensive, saying the result against Nigeria was a fair reflection of the game. He also said his players deserved "sympathy and respect" for performing on the biggest stage despite the impact of economic sanctions on the country — which made it difficult to arrange friendlies.

Queiroz said his Iranian squad was primed to face Argentina at Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte.

"Our match with Argentina will be the most important and biggest match in Iran's football history," he said. "I still believe the majority assume there are only three teams in Group F, with the experts believing that Argentina is the top team in this group, while either Nigeria, or Bosnia ranking second. Of course they are right about Argentina."

Queiroz didn't reveal whether his team would resort to the same tactics to contain players like Messi, Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain.

"We consider it as the greatest challenge before us," he said. "We will try to display a challenging spirit."



SERGIO GUTS/AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi, left, scores his team's second goal against Bosnia on Sunday. Messi said the team made too many mistakes in the opener, which it will try to remedy on Saturday against Iran.

WORLD CUP



Costa Rica's Joel Campbell, a father-to-be, runs with the ball under his shirt and sucking his thumb after scoring against Uruguay last week. Campbell is one of many players creating animated celebrations after scoring a goal during the World Cup.

NATASHA PISARENKO/AP

Let the show begin

Scorers are getting more creative with their goal celebrations

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

FLYING Dutchman Arjen Robben took off straight for the goal, ran around the back side of the net, then came sliding into the sideline on his knees. He spread his arms wide, blew kisses, made a fist, pointed and stuck out his tongue.

Costa Rica's Joel Campbell, a father-to-be, stuffed the ball under his shirt, cradled it and stuck his thumb in his mouth before pointing to the sky following a goal against Uruguay.

There have been some memorable goals so far in this World Cup, along with some equally notable and animated celebrations.

Some of the theatrics are planned carefully. Others burst forth at the spur of the moment.

But are soccer players ready for "Dancing with the Stars?" "I would say overall everyone needs to put a little more commitment into whatever they're doing," offered professional dancer Cheryl Burke, who just completed her 17th season on the show and has been catching as many games as possible.

"They could make it a little bit better by adding maybe a couple more moves or maybe even add some comedy to it, whether it's dipping a guy or twirling to the next set of guys."

For Campbell, the goal was a tribute. "I'm going to have a son soon, which is why I celebrated my goal the way I did," he said. "Celebrating his arrival with a World Cup goal is the best thing that can happen to me. ... It brings me such happiness to be blessed to be a father. The celebration was for the baby and for all of the family."

Colombia's Pablo Armero performed a rhythmic dance he does at every chance, even for an Adidas ad. It became a sensation in Brazil called the "Armeration" after he started doing it while playing for the Brazilian club Palmeiras in 2010.

When Oribe Peraltá scored on a putback in Mexico's opener, his mouth dropped open and his arms began moving simultaneously as if he were performing biceps curls while running in triumph. He dropped to both knees for a long slip-and-slide on the wet grass.

Swarmed by teammates Dani Alves and Fred, Brazil's Neymar spread each arm out to the side and gave himself wings to soar across the field.

On Friday, the Oranje's Robin van Persie made a mad dash, teeth clenched, straight to the sideline to high-five his coach and teammates

after scoring on a beautiful diving header in a 5-1 win over defending champion Spain. After his second goal, van Persie stuck out his tongue and did a leaping scissors kick.

"The ones that made me

laugh are the ones to go for because people love to see that, especially when a team works so hard to create a goal and they actually score," Burke said. "A couple made me smile and laugh."

The knee slide has been among the most popular exclamation point.

Chile's Eduardo Vargas did it Friday, then teammate Jorge Valdivia ran around with his pointer fingers at his temples to signal he's crazy after scoring two minutes later.

Oscar of Brazil flopped to the turf and wept with his face to the grass as the sideline erupted. He signaled a heart with his hands.

"I just like when the emotions come and take me and you go from there," said American Mix Diskerud, who scored his first international goal in a May 27 exhibition win against Azerbaijan. "I don't really plan any celebrations. I don't have any somersaults or anything like that." Italian forward

Marco Balotelli is known for not celebrating after goals. But for the big ones, he often lets loose.

Like when he took off his shirt and flexed his muscles after scoring both goals in Italy's win over Germany in the semifinals of the 2012 European Championship. Or when he gestured to the crowd after scoring the winner against England in Italy's 2-1 victory Saturday.

Obafemi Martins of the MLS Seattle Sounders owns the acrobatic backflip. Others without that same athleticism find other ways.

Former Italy forward Alberto Gilardino mimicked a violinist when he scored against the United States at the 2006 World Cup.

In 1994, there was Brazil's Bebeto "rock-in' the baby."

At the 2002 World Cup in South Korea, Ahn Jung-Hwan celebrated his tying goal for South Korea in a draw with the U.S. by swinging his arms and moving his legs in a speedskating motion imitating American Olympic star Apolo Anton Ohno. It came about four months after Ohno captured his first career gold medal in the 1,500-meter short-track at the Salt Lake City Olympics despite not crossing the finish line first. South Korean Kim Dong-Sung was disqualified.

In 1999, Liverpool star Robbie Fowler got down on his knees and put his left hand over his left nostril and simulated snorting on a white line after scoring against Everton. The display brought him a four-match suspension and fine.

Whether orchestrated or purely spontaneous, emotions are running high.

"Scoring a goal, no matter where it is, is a huge feeling," Diskerud said. "It's just an overwhelming feeling and you see 10 players chasing you to celebrate the goal you scored with them."



Chile's Eduardo Vargas celebrates a goal against Spain last week with a slide on the pitch.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

WORLD CUP

Some stars shining, others staying dim

By Mike Corder
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — After just one match each, Robin van Persie and Lionel Messi have already equaled their goal tallies from their previous two World Cups combined.

Two of football's biggest stars are finally shining where it matters most.

While it has taken Van Persie and Messi three tournaments to find their feet, other strikers seem to thrive on the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the World Cup from Day One.

Thomas Mueller, joint tournament top scorer with five in South Africa four years ago, grabbed a hat trick Monday as Germany hammered Portugal 4-0.

And with the weight of the football-loving host nation resting on his slender shoulders, 22-year-old Neymar slotted two goals in his World Cup debut as Brazil beat Croatia 3-1 in the tournament opener. Neymar failed to score against Mexico on Tuesday thanks to amazing goalkeeping by Guillermo Ochoa.

But the pressure that some players thrive on seems to weigh others down. Cristiano Ronaldo—constantly paired against Messi in the debate over the world's best player—continued his miserable World Cup form. His only goal in South Africa was in Portugal's 7-0 rout of North Korea, and he and his team were shut out in their first game in Brazil.

For Messi, getting his name on the score sheet was an improvement from four years ago, when he left South Africa without a goal. The Argentine wizard's only previous World Cup goal came in Germany in 2006.

If Van Persie's relative failure in his first two World Cups—he managed just one goal in the Dutch charge to the 2010 final and only one in Germany four years earlier—was weighing on his mind, it didn't show in Salvador on Friday, where he grabbed



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

The Netherlands' Robin van Persie controls the ball against Australia on Wednesday. Van Persie has scored three goals in two games, but will miss the next match after receiving his second yellow card.

two goals in his team's 5-1 demolition of world champion Spain. He also scored in the second half of Wednesday's win over Australia.

"He's so mature that I don't really think he's thinking about that a lot," Dutch midfielder Nigel de Jong said of Van Persie's previous World Cup flops. "I don't think he looks at the statistics, especially from the last couple of tournaments."

It wasn't just that Van Persie and Messi broke droughts, the quality of their strikes lit up the tournament.

Messi picked up the ball in the 65th minute against Bosnia at the Maracana on Sunday, exchanged a 1-2 with Gonzalo Higuain, weaved his way past defenders and curled a left-footed shot in off the base of the post.

Van Persie ran under a 40-yard pass from Daley Blind, glanced

up, saw Iker Casillas off his line and dived full length to send a looping header over the Spain goalie.

"Considering the circumstances, it must be the goal of my career," the Manchester United striker said.

The release of tension was palpable for both players.

Van Persie sprinted along the touch line to exchange a high five with coach Louis van Gaal; Messi tugged on his shirt, ran to the edge of the pitch and pumped his fist.

"I wanted to release all the energy from other times when things didn't go right (with the national team)," he said. "It's always a pleasure to score with the national team."

Van Persie, however, will be forced to sit out his team's final Group B match after earning his

second yellow card of the tournament on Wednesday for putting his hand in the face of Australia's Matthew Spiranovic.

And Neymar isn't the only player excelling in his first World Cup.

Karim Benzema, who wasn't picked for France four years ago, nearly had a hat trick in his first World Cup match, scoring two and having a hand in an own goal as Les Bleus beat Honduras 3-0.

Italy's mercurial forward Mario Balotelli marked his first World Cup game by scoring the winner for Italy against England.

"He's a player with a huge amount of talent and it seems like he's setting himself up to have a great World Cup," Italian football federation president Giancarlo Abete said.

Meanwhile, Portugal's Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney of England

can't seem to find their form, just as they struggled four years ago.

Rooney worked hard, starting out of position on the left wing, but could not make the difference for his team as England played competitive football but ultimately lost 2-1 to Italy.

"Obviously we lost the game but I was involved in the game, could have scored, created the goal and felt I had an influence," Rooney said.

And FIFA world player of the year Ronaldo was a shadow of the man who dominates for Real Madrid.

Ronaldo had been struggling to shake off a left knee injury going into the match, but declared himself 100 percent fit. He left the stadium without speaking to reporters, leaving his coach at a loss to explain it.

"Cristiano played the whole match," Paulo Bento said. "We are told that he is well physically."

Associated Press writers covering the World Cup contributed to this report.



JON SUPER/AP

France's Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring Sunday against Honduras. Four years after not getting picked for the squad, Benzema scored two goals in his first game.

Germany's Kroos often overlooked, but crucial

By NESHA STARCEVIC
The Associated Press

PORTO SEGURO, Germany — Toni Kroos plays alongside so many star players that his own contribution is often overlooked, both for his club and for Germany.

This World Cup could be his chance to grab more of the spotlight.

Kroos' strong performance in the 4-0 opening victory over Portugal was overshadowed by Thomas Mueller's three goals, but his statistics impressed even his coaches, who have given him the role of Germany's main ball distributor.

It is something the Brazilians call "garçon," or waiter, in their football terminology, and Kroos is happy to play that role on the field.

Even Kroos was surprised to have covered 7.27 miles during the match in Salvador's sweltering heat, while having an



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Germany's Toni Kroos could get a chance in the spotlight after his statistics in a 4-0 win against Portugal impressed his coaches.

88-percent passing accuracy.

"I usually don't run that much, true," the Bayern Munich midfielder said Wednesday.

day. But he was not surprised by his passing rate.

"That's what my role is all about and I like making my teammates look good," he said. "I don't mind doing the 'waiter' part on the field, but not at dinner time."

Germany's assistant coach Hansi Flick said Kroos' "development has been great."

"He protects the ball well, he opens up the game with his passing and he gives assists. He's played at a very high level all season. The only area where he could improve is scoring," Flick said.

Kroos' talent was recognized early and he was chosen as the best player at the 2007 U-17 World Cup, when Germany finished third.

He moved to Bayern when he was 16 and later spent 18 months on loan at Bayer Leverkusen before returning. He has been a regular since Pep Guardiola took over one season ago, although his teammates Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery, to name

just a couple, hog the attention.

Kroos helped Bayern win the Champions League in 2013, and domestic doubles the past two seasons.

He was on Germany's 2010 squad, but was given a bigger role in coach Joachim Loew's team during qualifying for Brazil, when he scored three goals in seven games.

Kroos, whose brother is a defender for Werder Bremen, has a powerful shot from distance and is dangerous on set pieces. His corner set up Germany's second goal against Portugal.

The 24-year-old German says he is happy to play both as a defensive midfielder or a more attacking position.

"During a match, I am to be found in both areas anyway. I help in the defense, but I try to attack, too, and provide the decisive pass. I also try not to lose the ball and allow the opponent to run counterattacks."

WORLD CUP

Mandzukic, Croatia eliminate Cameroon

By CHRIS LEHOURITES
The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — Mario Mandzukic scored two goals Wednesday to keep Croatia in the mix at the World Cup with a 4-0 win over 10-man Cameroon, which will be going home after the group stage.

Mandzukic, who returned to the team at the Arena da Amazonia after sitting out the opening loss to Brazil through suspension, headed in a corner from Danijel Pranjinic in the 61st minute and then knocked in a rebound in the 73rd of the Group A game.

Ivan Perisic also scored one goal and set up another for Ivica Olic.

Cameroon was reduced to 10 men after midfielder Alex Song was given a red card for elbowing Mandzukic in the back in an

off-the-ball incident in the 40th minute.

The team started without the injured Samuel Eto'o, the team's best player.

Croatia now has its future in its own hands. If the 1998 World Cup semifinalists beat Mexico on Monday, they will guarantee themselves a spot in the second round. The Mexicans will advance with only a draw.

Cameroon is out, however, and can only play spoiler in its final match against five-time champion Brazil, also on Monday. If the 1990 World Cup quarterfinalists beat Brazil, the host country could still advance or be forced out of the tournament on goal difference.

Song is the cousin of Cameroon great Rigobert Song, one of only two players to be sent off at two different World Cups.

Scoreboard

First round									
GROUP A					At Belo Horizonte, Brazil				
W	L	T	GF	GA	W	L	T	GF	GA
Brazil	1	0	1	3	1	4			
Nigeria	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	3	0
Croatia	1	1	0	5	3	3			
Cameroon	0	2	0	0	0	5			
Thursday, June 12									
Brazil 3, Croatia 1					At Sao Paulo				
Friday, June 13					At Natal, Brazil				
Mexico 1, Cameroon 0					Tuesday, June 17				
Brazil 0, Mexico 0					At Fortaleza, Brazil				
Wednesday, June 18					At Manaus, Brazil				
Croatia 4, Cameroon 0					Monday, June 23				
Brazil vs. Cameroon					At Recife, Brazil				
Croatia vs. Mexico					GROUP B				
W	L	T	GF	GA	W	L	T	GF	GA
x-Netherlands	2	0	0	8	3	6			
x-Chile	2	0	0	5	1	6			
Australia	0	2	0	3	6	3			
Spain	0	2	0	1	7	0			
x-advanced to second round					Friday, June 13				
Netherlands 5, Spain 1					At Curitiba, Brazil				
Chile 3, Australia 1					Wednesday, June 18				
Netherlands 3, Australia 2					At Rio de Janeiro				
Chile 2, Spain 0					Monday, June 23				
Spain vs. Australia					At Sao Paulo				
Netherlands vs. Chile					GROUP C				
W	L	T	GF	GA	W	L	T	GF	GA
Colombia	2	0	0	3	3	6			
Ivory Coast	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Japan	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Greece	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Saturday, June 14					At Belo Horizonte, Brazil				
Colombia 3, Greece 0					At Recife, Brazil				
Ivory Coast 2, Japan 1					Thursday, June 19				
Brazil 2, Ivory Coast 1					At Natal, Brazil				
Greece vs. Japan					Tuesday, June 24				
Colombia vs. Japan					At Fortaleza, Brazil				
Greece vs. Ivory Coast					GROUP D				
W	L	T	GF	GA	W	L	T	GF	GA
Costa Rica	1	0	0	3	1	3	0	3	1
Italy	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1
England	0	1	0	1	2	0			
Uruguay	0	1	0	1	3	0			
Saturday, June 14					At Fortaleza, Brazil				
Costa Rica 3, Uruguay 1					At Manaus, Brazil				
Italy 2, England 1					Thursday, June 19				
Uruguay vs. England					Friday, June 20				
Costa Rica vs. Italy					At Recife, Brazil				
Tuesday, June 24					At Natal, Brazil				
Uruguay vs. Italy					At Recife, Brazil				



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Italy's Claudio Marchisio scores the opening goal against England on Saturday. Marchisio and his teammates completed 93.2 percent of their passes, according to Opta Sports.

A pass-ive approach

Italy keeps ball moving to deal with heat

By ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

MANGARATIBA, Brazil — Italy has taken Spain's famed "tiki-taka" system and revamped it to deal with Brazil's heat and humidity.

The Azzurri mesmerized England by completing an astounding 93.2 percent of their passes during a 2-1 win on Saturday according to data company Opta Sports — the highest accuracy recorded in a World Cup match since the statistic began to be recorded in 1966. The previous record belonged to Denmark at 92.7 percent from a 6-1 win over Uruguay in 1986, according to Opta.

FIFA, however, gave Italy an 89-percent passing completion. For long stretches, Italy's midfielders simply passed the ball back and forth between themselves. It was a strategic decision to deal with stifling conditions at the tournament's Amazonian venue of Manaus.

Expect more of it on Friday when the Azzurri face Costa Rica in Recife, where kickoff could come under a torrid sun at 1 p.m. local time.

"(Coach Cesare) Prandelli invented our style of play by adapting to our characteristics," midfielder Daniele De Rossi explained Tuesday. "We don't have players that make runs for 40 or 50 meters without touching the ball. We get the ball to our most skillful players without squeezing



Group D
Italy vs. Costa Rica
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Friday CET
12:30 a.m. Saturday JKT



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Italy head coach Cesare Prandelli gestures from the touchline during Saturday's Group D match against England at the Arena da Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil. Italy won 2-1.

and complement each other," De Rossi said.

Pirlo is the player with the most touches (117) and passes (108) so far at the World Cup, according to Opta. He completed 103 passes with only five failed deliveries against England. De Rossi completed 99 passes,

the energy out of them.

"It's very hot and our way of playing takes less effort," De Rossi added. "I've seen squads that after a half hour are running at 2 kilometers per hour."

No wonder Prandelli used five midfielders against England in a 4-1-4-1 formation.

De Rossi lined up just in front of the defense, and wingers Antonio Candreva and Claudio Marchisio surrounded central midfielders Marco Verratti and Andrea Pirlo.

By the time Italy scored the opening goal Saturday, England didn't know how to react.

On a corner, Candreva made a short pass to Verratti who slipped the ball across the pitch toward Pirlo, who stepped over to it to fool the defense and let Marchisio find the target from beyond the area.

"We've had a strong midfield for many years now and this one is especially rich with players who have different qualities

WORLD CUP

Reign by Spain comes to surprising halt

Defending champs' world rule over as loss to Chile ends title chances

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO—With its superstars aging and its loyal coach slow to blend in young talent, Spain's glorious reign as the superpower of world football was bound to end.

The Spanish weren't favored to repeat as World Cup champions. But few expected the utter collapse that ended Wednesday with a 2-0 loss Chile, knocking Spain from contention and ending the run of the greatest team of the century.

Chile's pace and skill produced a dominating win similar to so many Spanish victories over the past six years. Spain was outplayed, out-run and out-fought.

The 5-1 beating by the Netherlands Friday was shocking and foretold where coach Vicente del Bosque's team was heading: Home.

"If you think about everything accomplished, and you told me we would be eliminated in group stage, I wouldn't believe you," del Bosque said.

"We have no excuses. It's a sad day for all of the players."

Six of Spain's squad has played at least 100 national team games while winning the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

"Success is not eternal," said Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli, whose hyperactive energy around the dugout was shared by his team. "This generation could not continue with that success and you can understand it."

"It's very special the fact we were able to play today against the World Cup champions the way we did," Sampaoli said, and "eliminate them with courage, intensity and attack."

Del Bosque acknowledged that his players were "too slow, timid from the start."

"We thought we were in good shape, it was tough to even choose the 11 players that would line up, but the reality was quite different," Del Bosque said. "The second half against Holland and the first half against Chile were like a weight crashing down on us."

Chile twice came close to scoring in the first 90 seconds, and led in the 20th minute when Eduardo Vargas finished a slick move of incisive passing that was truly Spanish in its execution.

The second followed in the 43th when Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas punched a free kick to the feet of Charles Aranguiz, who fired a rising shot right back past the veteran captain, who took much of the blame for the loss to the Netherlands.

"I only ask fans for forgiveness, we did everything we could," said Casillas. The 33-year-old came to the World Cup after a second straight season as second-choice goalkeeper at Real Madrid and a glaring error in its Champions League final win last month.

Spain came to Brazil with a very similar—but older—team to the 2010 squad. They added Brazilian-born striker Diego Costa, but he failed to score and was substituted in both matches.

Spain's "tiki-taka" style of play—keeping the ball for long stretches with short passes, and only shooting when you had a clear opening—had not been working as well in recent years. Brazil defeated Spain 3-0 in last summer's Confederations Cup final, a warm-up for the World Cup.

Spain became the third straight European defending World Cup champion to flop in the group stage. France in 2002 and Italy



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Spain's Sergio Busquets reacts after missing a chance to score against Chile on Wednesday.

four years ago also failed to advance, or even win a match.

Spain's players agreed that they did not read their opponents well, or know when to clamp down and control the games through keeping possession as it has been known to do.

"The commitment wasn't there," said Casillas, who owned up to perhaps his two worst performances in 156 appearances for Spain. "From the very first moment everything went awry."

Spain can at least end that streak in a consolation game Monday against Australia. Chile and the Netherlands will play to decide the Group B winner. Both will advance to the final 16 knock-out round, but the winner will be

seeded higher.

"We didn't know how to maintain our hunger or that conviction needed to win a tournament. The joy and success we've experienced is over," veteran Xabi Alonso said. "We lost our knowhow, which has helped us win so many of these important games. It doesn't feel like our other tournaments."

Alonso, who along with Casillas and Xavi may have seen their international careers come to an end, said Spain was not mentally prepared for Brazil, while the team's physical state was not at its peak either.

"We didn't do anything different to what we did in South Africa or the two Euros," said forward Fernando Torres, ineffective as a sec-

ond-half substitute. "We came with the same mentality, approaching the games the same way."

Torres also said Spain was "just not good enough."

Perhaps the Euro 2012 final was the high point of the era: A 4-0 dismantling of Italy on a similarly balmy evening in Kiev, Ukraine.

Then, the team was joined in locker-room celebrations by Crown Prince Felipe. He could not be in Rio de Janeiro. One hour after the match ended in the Maracana, at midnight in Madrid, he formally became king upon the abdication of his father, Juan Carlos.

On Thursday, Spain woke up to a new king, but no longer rulers of world football.

Dutch top Aussies, clinch spot in knockout round

By CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil—Louis van Gaal can pinpoint the moment he knew his Netherlands team would be able to hold off Australia and secure the win that ultimately put the Oranje through to the knockout rounds of the World Cup.

With just over 20 minutes to go in a frantic, seesawing match, Australia missed a golden chance to take a 3-2 lead.

Sitting on the bench, van Gaal saw that as the sign and turned to his assistant coaches to tell them.

"I said to Patrick Kluivert and Danny Blind, 'We're going to win this match because if they miss that kind of chance, we will score the goal.'"

Seconds later, he was proved right. From the very next attack, substitute Memphis Depay drove a swerving, speculative shot toward the goal from 25 yards. Australia

goalkeeper Maty Ryan didn't sight it early enough and the ball shot past his outstretched right hand.

It capped a game that intensified suddenly when a 20th-minute solo run and strike by Arjen Robben was canceled out seconds later by a stunning volley from Australia's inspirational veteran Tim Cahill.

Australia then went ahead with a second-half penalty, only for Robin Van Persie to equalize four minutes later.

The result left the Netherlands, which thrashed defending champion Spain 5-1 in its opening game, on the verge of advancing from Group B. That was confirmed a few hours later when Chile beat Spain, knocking the 2010 World Cup winners and Australia out of contention.

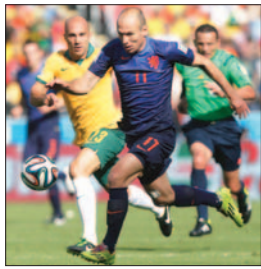
"Bitterly disappointing," Australia manager Ange Postecoglou said. "Just for the players, they were magnificent. They took it to a world-class team. Full credit to them, but I just feel bitterly disappointed

they weren't able to get some reward out of it today. We came to this World Cup and we're playing against three of the best nations in the world."

When Robben opened the scoring, giving him a third goal for the tournament, another roar seemed to be in the works. But that was only for only a matter seconds, with Australia equalizing after Ryan McGowan sent a long, looping pass from the midfield to Cahill, who volleyed over Jasper Cillessen onto the underside of the bar in one of the best goals of the tournament so far.

"Most games are decided on moments and we had our moments," Postecoglou said. "We could have gone 3-2 up and we really had momentum at that time. And unfortunately Matty Lekic just couldn't get the right purchase on it to put it away."

Van Persie, who has scored three goals in the tournament, will miss the next game after drawing his second yellow card.



JOHN SUPPER/AP

Australia's Mark Bresciano, left, tries to keep up with the Netherlands' Arjen Robben on Wednesday.

WORLD CUP



DOLORES OCHOA/AP

The United States' Jozy Altidore grimaces after pulling up injured during Monday's match against Ghana. The American striker has been ruled out of Sunday's game against Portugal with a strained hamstring.

Altidore won't face Portugal

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — U.S. forward Jozy Altidore will miss Sunday's World Cup game against Portugal because of his strained left hamstring.

Altidore was hurt in the 21st minute of Monday's 2-1 win over Ghana.

"It's bad news, but I think the team will handle this," midfielder Jermaine Jones said Thursday.

"U.S. team spokesman Michael Kammarman did not reveal the severity of the strain, but said Thursday the Americans were hopeful Altidore can return at some point during the tournament. The U.S. completes the first round against three-time cham-

pion Germany on June 26.

"We're extremely bummed for him and the team, but we bring 23 players and so this is just a chance for somebody to step up," midfielder Kyle Beckerman said.

Aron Johannsson replaced Altidore for the second half against Ghana. Chris Wondolowski is the other striker in the squad who could join Clint Dempsey in the attack.

"I would say there's a lot of similarities," Beckerman said. "They both help the team in offense, defense. They do a lot of stuff that's not on the stat sheet. They're both tricky with the ball, and they both have a nose for goal."

Johannsson, a 23-year-old who was born in Mobile, Ala., and grew up in Iceland, scored 26 goals last season for AZ Alkmaar

in the Netherlands. Wondolowski, a 31-year-old Californian, led Major League Soccer with 18 regular-season goals in 2010 and 27 in 2012 and tied for lead with 16 in 2011.

"Wondo is more the finisher in the box," Jones said. "Aron is more maybe the guy who's good with the ball and tries to go one against one."

Dempsey has not decided whether he will wear a mask to protect his nose, which was broken during the Ghana game by John Boye's shin to his face during a battle for a header in the 31st minute.

Defender Matt Besler, who left the Ghana match at halftime because of a sore hamstring, should be available for Sunday's game in Manaus, Kammarman said.

Teammate says Ronaldo fit for US

The Associated Press

CAMPINAS, Brazil — Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is fully fit to play against the United States in their crucial Group G match at the World Cup, a teammate said Wednesday.

Ronaldo needed an ice pack for his troublesome left knee during the day's earlier training session, once again raising concerns about the world player of the year's fitness.

But backup goalkeeper Beto said the Real Madrid star would be ready for the showdown with the United States on Sunday in the Amazon rain forest capital of Manaus.

"Cristiano is 100 percent fit to play. Every match, if he starts to play, it is because he is fit to play, he's ready to play," Beto insisted. "He loves football but his body is the most important thing for him ... so if he starts a match he is ready, he is fit, so I don't think that is a problem."

Portugal was humiliated in a 4-0 defeat by Germany in their World Cup opener. Ronaldo was doubtful to play before that game, but declared himself fit. He went on to produce a subdued performance.

Ronaldo has been hampered by tendonitis and a muscle injury since before the tournament, creating plenty of speculation about how he would perform in Brazil.

Beto said the 29-year-old Real Madrid forward was "sick of reading things about him that are not true."

Though his knee had been bandaged in previ-



PAULO DUARTE/AP

Cristiano Ronaldo leaves Wednesday's training with ice on his left knee. Portugal plays the U.S. in Group G on Sunday needing a victory.

ous training sessions, Ronaldo started without one Wednesday. After some light work with the rest of the first team, followed by some stretching, the world player of the year had the knee ice-packed.

The rout against Germany means Portugal badly needs a victory over a United States team that made a winning start to the tournament, beating Ghana 2-1.

Wall: Brooks' game-winner showed back line has depth

FROM BACK PAGE

that they are more than capable of handling different things, and we have size, strength, speed back there as well."

While starter Matt Besler was removed for the second half of Monday's victory in Natal as a precaution because of a tight right hamstring, John Brooks showed he is a reliable fill-in — and delivered the game-winner on a header in the 86th minute. Besler's leg is expected to be fine by Sunday, coach Jurgen Klinsmann said.

Left back DaMarcus Beasley became the first U.S. player to appear in four World Cups. In a wide-open game, right back Fabian Johnson didn't show quite the same ability to get forward as he did in warm-up matches. Center back Geoff Cameron was a steady force.

"I thought they did extremely well with the unexpected changes. I think all of the guys did very well together," midfielder Graham Zusi said. "I thought Cam was an absolute monster back there for us. He found himself in great spots to clear some really dangerous balls. (Besler), when he was in there, was as solid as ever, and Brooksie came in and obviously did his part as well, and got that eventual game-winner. And the outside guys, Beas and Fabian, were the old selves, getting up and down the line, as dangerous as ever."

For many of the Americans, being a bunch of World Cup first-timers hardly seems to matter. Only six players on Klinsmann's 23-man roster were on the 2010 U.S. team in South Africa.

That attitude stems partly from the fact Klinsmann has downplayed the youth issue from Day 1, refusing to let it be an excuse or something to even give a second thought. Klinsmann insisted from the moment his team reported to training camp at Stanford, Calif., on May 14 that he was uncon-

By the numbers

6

Number of players on the United States' 23-man World Cup roster who were on the team during the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

cerned about the back four's lack of experience.

"There's always a first time in life in whatever you do," said Klinsmann, who gave the Americans a day off from training Wednesday to enjoy time with family and friends in Sao Paulo before returning to the field Thursday. "It's for some the first World Cup, though it's the first of hopefully many World Cups to come for them."

After Clint Dempsey scored 30 seconds in, Ghana was forced into attack mode — making the defense work.

Cameron has shifted to center back from his position on the right for Stoke and seems unfazed by the change in responsibilities. Sporting Kansas City defender Besler had experience playing alongside Cameron previously.

The defensive unit keeps making strides the more it's on the field together.

"Just with practicing, experience, the different movements, understanding each other's game," Besler said. "All three games of the sendoff series were important, but the Nigeria game was most important, with the way that we played, the way that we came out, defended as a team. We gained confidence from that game."



RICARDO MAZALAN/AP

Center back Geoff Cameron was a steady force for the U.S. as it opened Group G play with a 2-1 victory over Ghana on Monday.

SPORTS



Hendrick Motorsports'
Big 3 are cruising
Auto racing, Page 56

WORLD CUP



Alejandro Bedoya



Matt Besler



John Brooks



Fabian Johnson

BUILDING A
WALL

Young US defense does job against Ghana,
faces stiff test from Portugal's Ronaldo

By JANIE McCauley
The Associated Press

After one game and one impressive victory, the U.S. defense is holding its own. Slowing down world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo on Sunday in Manaus figures to be a far stiffer test for this young group.

For all the times the Americans heard how inexperienced their back line would be heading into the World Cup, they're riding high with confidence after Monday's 2-1 opening



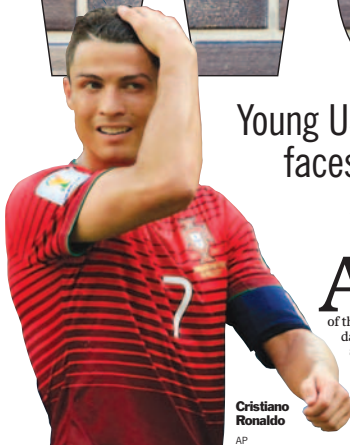
US vs. Portugal
AFN-Sports
11:30 p.m. Sunday CET
6:30 a.m. Monday JKT



win against Ghana. The victory greatly increased their odds of advancing out of a talented Group G, which earned the nickname "Group of Death" the moment the draw came out.

"These 23 players, I think we all deserve to be here, really," midfielder Alejandro Bedoya said Tuesday. "We've earned that right to play here. All these players have shown throughout training camp in Stanford and all that

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Cristiano Ronaldo

AP

LA turns
TWO

Kershaw throws
Dodgers' second
no-hitter of season
in rout of Rockies

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